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der page 9
ers: on NHS, from Dr A. N.
iii and Professor P. H.

Tentative from B

welcome britain

Mrs Raisa Gorbachov, wife of the Soviet leader, leaving a Paris fashion house yesterday with the French couturier Yves Saint-Laurent: her husband makes a point to President Mitterrand at the Elysee Palace.

"The NCB will recognize any breakaway organization because

The note was delivered to two newspapers. Attached to it was a Polaroid colour photograph of Mr Buckley, in which

Quiet man abroad

Alistair Maclean's 30 years of writing

The electorate has given Mr
 Kil Kinnock a vote of confi-
 dence, and a new lead for
 Labour, in the wake of this
 week's conference, according to
 Market and Opinion Research

By Anthony Bevins Pol
 Compared with only 9 per cent
 who thought it would impair
 Labour's chances.
 That three-to-one backing for
 the snack of firm Labour

Although the Department of Education and Science denies it, Sir Keith now appears to have changed his mind.

the agreement was less than Mexico had been hoping for under IMF rules.

ers Association (IUA) immediately condemned the price rises, arguing "there is no room for any increase at all and

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...should investigate immediately


HARRIS MILLER
 INVESTMENT SERVICES

...ants and the miners - with
...er cent of Labour supporters
...nking that it would help
...bour to win the next election,

ectorate at a time when all
ree parties are running so
se in the poll.

The MORI figures exclude 16 per cent of those questioned who were undecided, would not vote or refused to respond.

At the same time, Conservative support has increased by

go up by £10 to £85 for residential and £95 for a business line.


HARRIS MILLER
 INVESTMENT SERVICES

New legal moves could delay attempt to ban councillors

By Hugh Clayton

A court case being prepared by London councils could delay further the process of banning 80 rebel Labour councillors in Lambeth and Liverpool from holding office.

The rebels, who are accused of "wilful misconduct" by district auditors, include Mr Ted Knight, leader of Lambeth council, and Mr Derek Hatton, deputy leader of Liverpool.

Meanwhile, the Department of the Environment decided yesterday to appeal to the Lords against a Court of Appeal decision on Thursday, which resulted in a victory for two councils in a test case against the Government's controls. Council and government officials were not clear how far Thursday's decision would open the floodgates to much larger claims than the £20 million involved in the test case.

The London case is being brought by the Labour-led Camden council, on behalf of several authorities in the capital. Camden claims that the cancellation by the Government of housing benefit subsidies was unlawful.

Those subsidies, which are channelled through councils, are at the heart of the case against the Lambeth and Liverpool rebels. The Government decided in the spring to cancel the subsidy payments until councils involved in the abortive Labour rates rebellion fixed legal rates.

District auditors in London and on Merseyside have issued the 80 rebels and one former Lambeth councillor with surcharge claims totalling more than £200,000. If the claims are upheld in court, the rebels will be banned automatically from holding council office for five years.

They have already decided to appeal against the surcharges, which may be extended next year many other councils in this year's Labour rates rebellion. Those councils could include Sheffield, and the London borough of Islington, Greenwich, Southwark and Camden. The Liverpool and Lambeth

Next head of coal board offers hand to Scargill

By Edward Townsend

Industrial Correspondent
Sir Robert Haslam, chairman-elect of the National Coal Board, yesterday extended his first olive branch to Mr Arthur Scargill. If the miners' leader was genuinely concerned to reach a viable and secure industry then he was convinced that agreements could be reached, Sir Robert said.

Industrial relations would be a high priority for action, and after such a damaging strike there was a clear need for a period of morale building. But he also retained his belief that the present coal board strategy was right for the industry.

In an interview with *The Times*, Sir Robert, who takes over with a three-year contract from Mr Ian MacGregor next August, said: "Most people agree that you have got to fight for what you believe."

"But you have to look forward. At the end of the day if we can produce a viable coal industry then miners and their families are going to have a sense of security and well-being that I feel they should have."

"I think we have to work for that and I hope the miners and their leaders will perceive it in that way. It may be a rose-tinted view but that is what it is all about."

"If Mr Scargill genuinely wants to have that kind of result then we ought to be able to work something out."

Sir Robert, at present part-time chairman of the British Steel Corporation, which lost £180 million as a result of the miners' strike, denied emphatically that he had been asked by the Government to continue "Scargill bashing".

But he clearly intends to pursue the policy of closing uneconomic pits and investing in those with a bright future.

"The task I have been charged with is to pursue this difficult and elusive goal of bringing about a viable industry. I am well aware of the direction in which the coal board is heading and I have no reason to fault it."

Sir Robert, who has not met Mr Scargill, spent four years as personnel director of ICI and has close contacts with many senior trade unionists. His main strengths, after a long career with ICI in which he failed by a whisker to become chairman, are said to be in labour relations and marketing.

Sir Robert's management style is more friendly and outgoing than that of the somewhat reclusive Mr MacGregor. "One cannot have a rigid style, it must be changed according to the people one is dealing with."

Although the NCB has a new deputy chairman in Sir Kenneth Couzens, Sir Robert said he did not know whether there would be a chief executive appointed. But it would be one of his tasks to bring forward the "insiders with ability" at the coal board.

Part of Sir Robert's role will be to further the privatization process, but he believes that selling the core business of the coal board is "some way off".

For Sir Robert, a former mining engineer, the job marks his return to the industry after 35 years.

Britons aiming high in Andes

Two British lifeguards are aiming to set a record by running the 4,500-mile length of the Andes.

Andy Musket, aged 21, and Gary Shopland, aged 22, leave Britain next Saturday to fly to Punta Arenas in Chile, the southernmost tip of the Andes. They aim to cover the route in four and a half months, which will mean averaging the distance of the marathon each day, carrying 40lb backpacks containing, among other things, miner's lamps, 9mm Browning pistols and thermal underwear.

The venture was conceived after the brothers Richard and Adrian Crane set the pace by running the length of the Himalayas in a record 101 days two years ago.

The four men have been competitors in the now defunct quadathlon event, which involved a 30-mile race-walk, 100-mile cycle ride, 2-mile swim and a marathon, to be completed in less than 22 hours.

"We want to beat the Crane record," Mr Shopland, a lifeguard at Eastbourne leisure pool, said. "And we want to rekindle the spirit of the great British adventurer."

Blotting the route, arranging sponsorship and getting fit for the trip has occupied the two men for eight months. Their training programme culminated last week with a marathon every other day, carrying 40lb backpacks.

The run will take them from Chile, through Argentina, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador and Colombia to Caracas, in Venezuela, which they hope to reach by mid-February.

Both runners will carry a miner's lamp, so they can run at night if the daytime temperature is too high. They will also carry two spare pairs of running shoes, 20 Army ration packs, three litres of water, a tent, sleeping bag, ski hat, sun glasses, maps and a personal radio.

They plan to buy food locally, saving the ration packs for an emergency. Extra rations, clothing and spare running shoes will also be left at Santiago in Chile and Arequipa in Peru before they start their run.

The hand pistols are a precaution against roaming bandits, which they have been warned to expect in the mountains of Ecuador and Colombia.

One problem has still to be resolved. Argentina is threatening to refuse them entry visas.



Gary Shopland (left) and Andy Musket with their provisions.

Immigration service in 'Heathrow crisis'

Abuse from passengers frustrated by long delays was a big factor behind increasing numbers of resignations by immigration staff, union officials claimed at a Press conference yesterday.

Seven immigration officers averaging 12 years' service were said to have resigned in the last five weeks from Heathrow airport's terminal 3 for long-distance flights.

Morale in terminal 3, known as the "front line", was described as so low that it was not unusual for 30 per cent of the staff to report sick on any given day.

Mr Andrew Schooner, secretary of the Society of Civil and Public Servants, immigration branch, said: "The situation at Heathrow is desperate and it is not going to get any better because we have been denied the option of more staff. Quite intolerable delays, before arriving passengers are interviewed, have become a matter of course at terminal 3."

The immigration service was in crisis because of staff shortages.

The Society claimed the statutory objectives of the immigration service were no longer being fulfilled.

"We call on the new Home Secretary to allocate extra staff immediately to the immigration service and to show that this Government pays more than lip service to the importance of law and order issues."

The Home Office later denied union claims of a crisis in the service. However, it said that immigration control at Heathrow's terminal 3 has been under greater pressure this summer than in 1984, creating "very real problems". But talk of breakdown was "unfounded".

Man carried bullets and rifle through airport

A computer engineering student aged 20, passed through Heathrow Airport three weeks ago with a rapid-fire M1 carbine and 200 rounds of ammunition in his suitcase, a court was told yesterday.

Nahem Rafiq, of no fixed address, was staying with relatives in Clifton Street, Cardiff, when police received an anonymous telephone call saying he had a dangerous weapon. Sir Lincoln Hallinan, the stipendiary magistrate for South Glamorgan, was told.

Rafiq pleaded guilty to possessing a prohibited weapon and possessing 200 rounds of 30 ammunition without a firearms certificate.

Mr Peter Flacke, for the defence, said that Rafiq had bought the weapon in California for \$140.

At an earlier hearing he told the court that he had bought the semi-automatic carbine for hunting.

The magistrate recommended Rafiq for deportation and remanded him in custody for arrangements to be made with immigration authorities.

Ulster shooting 'a mistake'

A man who was shot and injured by "loyalist" Ulster Freedom Fighters at Craigavon, Co Armagh, yesterday was mistaken for another man who the UDR claimed was an IRA intelligence officer, the police said.

In Belfast, detectives were investigating the death of Mr Robert Robinson, aged 26, one of the defendants released after the collapse of the recent William "Budge" Allan supergrass trial.

Police reopen 'Kerry' case

Police in the Irish Republic are expected to reopen the investigation into the murder of a new-born boy, whose death in April last year started the "Kerry babies" affair.

A charge of murder against Miss Joanne Hayes, from Abbeydorney, Co Kerry, was dropped and the official report of the case found Miss Hayes could not have been the mother. In its aftermath police are still left with an unsolved murder.

Pam Ayres hurt

Miss Pam Ayres, the television personality and poet, was treated for neck and chest injuries at the Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, on Thursday night after being involved in a car crash at Witney.

Howe opponent

The Liberal-SDP Alliance has chosen Mr Michael Anderson, aged 55, a personnel adviser, to oppose Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, at Surrey East at the general election.

Ustinov award

Peter Ustinov, the actor, writer and director, was presented with the French decoration, *Commandeur des Arts et des Lettres*, at a ceremony last night at the French embassy hosted by M Jacques Viot, the French ambassador.

Suspect cleared

Police hunting the killer of Leoni Keating aged three, said yesterday that a man identified in a photograph taken by chance by a holidaymaker at the Great Yarmouth caravan site, Norfolk, from where the child was taken three weeks ago, had been eliminated from their inquiries.

MP in crash

Mr Don Connon, Labour MP for Mansfield and chief Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, was "conscious and stable" in Mansfield General Hospital yesterday with arm and face injuries, after his car was in collision with an articulated lorry near Mansfield, as he returned from the Labour Party conference.

Herbage remand

Alex Herbage, of Dalshally, Inverness, a British financier wanted in the United States to face fraud allegations involving £35 million, was remanded in custody yesterday for a month by Bow Street magistrates.

Hammond defies TUC on ballots

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

The right-wing electricians' union has gone a crucial stage further than the engineering workers in its defiance of the TUC policy which forbids unions to accept State funds for ballots.

The executive of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union has not only decided to hold a referendum among its 355,000 members on the subject, which may be held in tandem with the poll in the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers: it has also started a vociferous campaign for a "yes" vote.

So far the AUEW has limited its challenge to the TUC's authority to refusing this week to alter the wording of the ballot paper. Mr Norman Willis, general secretary of the TUC, is concerned that the voting form contains a reminder that a majority of the union's executive is in favour of taking the money. Mr Willis argues that it

Chance to view 1715 portrait

By Our Sale Room Correspondent

A fascinating group portrait painted in 1715 goes on view to the public today for the first time. "Sir Andrew Fountaine and Friends in the Tribune 1715" by Pignatta shows this distinguished Norfolk collector very much at home in the Tribune gallery of the Uffizi in Florence, the gallery where the Grand Duke of Tuscany kept the cream of his art collection.

Sir Andrew leans against the marble "Venus Victrix" holding a medallion in his hand while his nephew, Captain William Price, is carrying a tray of coins and his other friends handle the treasures. Fountaine made a long stay in Florence and became a close friend of the Grand Duke Cosimo III, which presumably explains his being permitted to pose in so relaxed a manner.



A detail from the painting showing Sir Andrew left.

The only similar painting of the Tribune is a famous Zoffany of 1772 in the royal collection. It was painted for George III and Queen Charlotte who had arranged for the artist to paint there. Both pictures are included in the exhibition of "Norfolk and the Grand Tour" at Norwich Castle Museum, which was opened last night by Sir Michael Levey, director of the National Gallery.

Sale of Joyce death mask rescinded

By Andrew Jaspán

The dispute about James Joyce's death mask will be settled next week when the sale will be annulled and the mask returned to the Joyce Mariello Tower Museum at Sandycove, Dublin.

The terms of the settlement are that the private sale between the vendor, Mr Michael Scott, an Irish architect, and Mr Tony Ryan, of Guinness Peat Aviation, the aircraft brokers, be rescinded by Mr Scott repaying the £16,500 paid

The mask was offered for sale by the Scott family at Sotheby's last July. However, a week before the sale, after a request from Stephen Joyce, the writer's grandson, for the mask to be withdrawn, a private sale for £16,500 was agreed by the Scotts and Mr Ryan. That angered Mr Joyce who was adamant that the mask was given to Mr Scott for the museum.

The arrangement to be agreed on Thursday should put an end to the acrimonious dispute between the Scott family, who have always claimed ownership of the mask, and Mr Joyce, who insists that the mask was given in custody to Mr Scott in 1958, to be eventually given to the Joyce museum, which opened in 1961.

A letter written by the late Mrs Carol Gidion-Welcker, a friend of Joyce, in 1955 made it clear that she was giving the mask to the museum.

Mr Ryan is upset that Sotheby's failed to ascertain the true ownership of the mask.

Help urged for children at risk

New procedures to make it easier for local authorities to take children into care if there is a risk of abuse or neglect are proposed in a government working party report.

The report, *Review of Child Care Law*, outlines recommendations to provide a clearer framework for meeting the needs of children and families.

Announced yesterday by Mr Ray Whitney, Parliamentary Under Secretary for Health, the report says that legislation must be overhauled to ensure the best interests of children. Recommendations include making it easier to take a child into care where harm is feared and giving parents and other relatives and foster parents a greater opportunity to take part in care proceedings.

Local authorities would lose the power to take parental rights without going to a court, but would have a new right of appeal from the court's decision. The report also recommends that court rules should be changed in the interests of fairer and speedier proceedings, and parental rights of access to children in care must be improved.

The welfare of Britain's children is of deep concern, highlighted by recent cases of child abuse, Mr Whitney said. Legislation must provide a clear basis for timely action when a child is at risk.

"But it must also ensure that, where compulsory action is taken to remove a child from its family, it can be thoroughly and fairly tested by a court," he said.

The Government's social services committee last year recommended that the Department of Health and Social Security set up a working party on child care law.

The Lord Chancellor and the Home Secretary have set up a

Report on care

separate review to consider the introduction of a unified family court to deal with matters relating to families and children. A discussion paper is expected this year.

Mr Whitney also released yesterday a consultation document on revision of the *Nurseries and Childminders Regulation Act 1948*, under which local authorities regulate private and voluntary day-care services.

Review of Child Care Law, Report to ministers of an interdepartmental working party (Stationery Office, £8.30).

Consultative Paper on Revision of the Nurseries and Childminders Regulation Act 1948

Comments on the child care working party's proposals are invited by January 15 next and should be sent to: Robin Chapman, DHSS, Child Care Division, Room B1402, Alexander Fleming House, Elephant and Castle, London SE1 6BY.

The Lord Chancellor and the Home Secretary have set up a

Three local newspapers to be closed

Three local newspapers in the Home Counties are to close, with the loss of 160 jobs, it was announced yesterday by Mr Home Counties Newspapers said a "Critical level" of losses was responsible for its decision to close the *Luton Leader*, the *Mid-Herts Citizen* and the *Hemel Hempstead Mail*.

Mr Peter Mackay, group managing director and company secretary, said the growing number of free newspapers was behind the loss, as well as the fact that the newspaper business was "highly competitive".

He added: "That is something our employees don't seem to have realized".

National Graphical Association leaders yesterday unanimously accepted a deal with the National Union of Journalists on new technology in provincial newspapers. The agreement was overwhelmingly endorsed by NUJ leaders earlier this week.

Under the deal, NGA members whose jobs are made defunct by new technology will be allowed to apply for editorial jobs. They will become NUJ members and accept the jurisdiction of the NUJ but will remain members of the NGA and pay subscriptions only to the Association.



Mr David Purley, who was drowned in his plane.

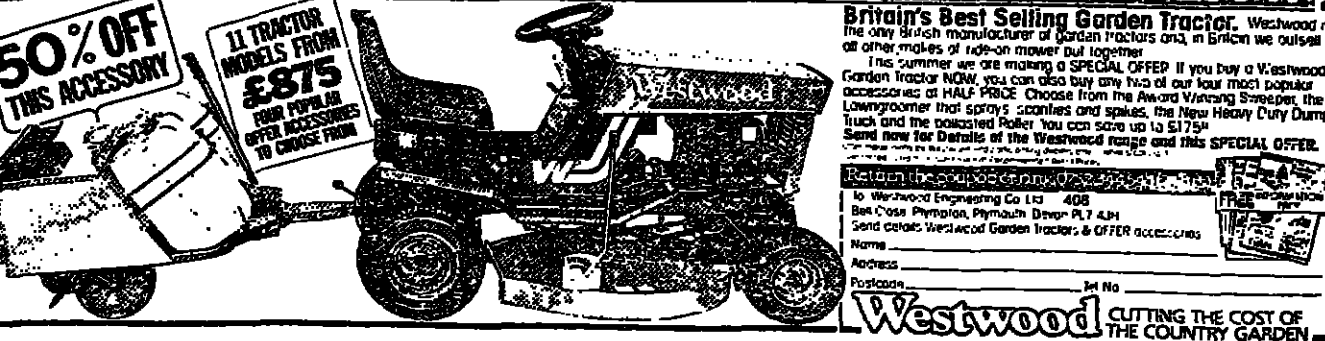
Cause of stunt plane crash unknown

A coroner said yesterday that it had not been established why a stunt aircraft flown by Mr David Purley, a former grand prix racing driver and George Medal holder, crashed into the sea during aerobatics off Bognor Regis, West Sussex, last July.

At an inquest in Chichester on Mr Purley, aged 40, of Spinney Lane, Itchenor, near Chichester, Mr Peter Claiden, a senior Department of Transport accident inspector from Farnborough, said that a one-centimetre square flap of rubber in the fuel pump would have caused either a loss or reduction of power.

The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

TWO HALF PRICE ACCESSORIES IF YOU BUY A WESTWOOD NOW!



Westwood CUTTING THE COST OF THE COUNTRY GARDEN

هكزان النحل

Cheaper package holidays offered as tour operators start price war

By Derek Harris

A price-cutting war is promised in the package holiday industry after the decision by Thomson Holidays, the market leader, to reduce the cost of its foreign holidays.

Intersun Holidays, its biggest rival, has undertaken to provide a wave of holiday bargains for people who book early, while Enterprise, which is part of British Airways, announced yesterday that it was to reissue its summer 1986 brochure with prices that match Thomson's.

Horizon, the other key tour operator, which is expected to bring out summer 1986 brochures later this month, is already committed to a policy on matching competitors pricing.

Earlier this week, Thomson brought down the average cost of package holiday by 17 per cent, or £50, compared with 1985 brochure prices. It claimed that more than 90 per cent of its package holidays would be cheaper next summer, with Spain 12 per cent and Italy 22 per cent.

Thomson also capped its earlier announcement of a full-season no-surcharge guarantee with a further guarantee offering greater protection against changes in holidays already booked.

In the chaotic market of this summer, when bookings plunged and tour operators switched flights, hotels and even resorts, there were angry complaints at holiday arrangements being upset.

Thomson's new guarantee promises compensation of £100 a head if there are changes in the departure date, date of departure, day flights being switched to night departures, holiday resorts, hotels, or to the length of a holiday.

The compensation, covering children as well as adults, applies if the holiday is still taken or if a different Thomson holiday is chosen. The existing cancellation arrangement, with its scale of compensation, will still apply.

Since Thomson's new brochures reached travel agents on Thursday morning, there had been an unprecedented rush of bookings.

How Thomson cut prices	
Spain	-17
Greece	-12
Portugal	-8
Yugoslavia	-12
Morocco	-20
Italy	-22
Austria	-10
Average reductions	
Source: Thomson Holidays	

Mr Paul Brett, managing director of Thomson Holidays, said. About 100,000 bookings worth about £20 million were taken during Thursday, more than three times the rate on the first day of the 1985 brochure launch.

At least another 50,000 bookings were expected to be logged yesterday, a higher rate of booking than last year, Mr Brett said.

Thomson's forecast is for a 14 per cent growth in next summer's packages market, and it is aiming to push its market share, now 20 per cent, nearer to 30 per cent. Its summer 1986 programme has been almost doubled to nearly two million holidays.

Intersun Holidays, part of the International Leisure Group, yesterday indicated that it would be looking at its own levels of compensation, and that its brochures would "concentrate on trying to attract early bookers, with many more money-saving deals". The company will also bring out an all-season no-surcharge guarantee.

The immediate casualties as the battle among the big operators grows fiercer are likely to be some of the medium-size and smaller mass-market operators.

Delays on way as M25 opens day early

By Michael Bailey
Transport Editor

The much-delayed Reigate to Wisley section of the M25 London orbital motorway will open tomorrow a day early. But traffic delays could arise within weeks as contractors start to repair the 20 to 30 hairline cracks remaining in the concrete road.

The Surrey police are expected to declare the motorway safe and open to traffic about mid-afternoon in time for traffic returning north from the International Grand Prix at Brands Hatch.

Repairs on the remaining cracks could take months to carry out. Each crack can take up to five weeks to repair and they are spread along a seven-mile stretch of the motorway between Reigate and Leatherhead causing traffic delays.

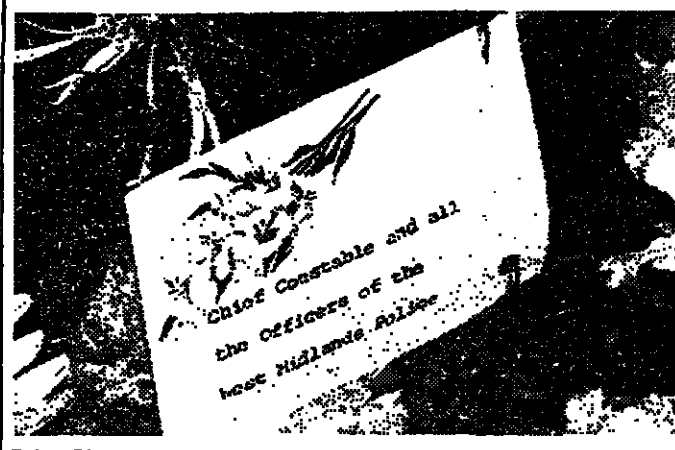
Announcing the early opening yesterday, Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State and Transport, said: "It is only fair to open this section as soon as it is safe to do so. It is".

She added: "As is well known there have been problems with the Leatherhead to Reigate Hill section. All repairs to the contraction joints have been complete, and the great majority of hairline cracks have been repaired."

The remainder will be dealt with under the normal maintenance arrangements set out in the contract. Safety is a prime consideration but so is quality. During road building the department checks on the quality of work through the consulting engineer. We want quality in the finished product and are not prepared to accept or pay for anything less."

The cause of delays has yet to be settled, as has the question of liquidated damage against the contractors, Birse-Farr.

Opening of the Reigate-Wisley section means 100 of the M25's 121 miles will be open to traffic.



John Shorthouse, handcuffed to a policeman, and his wife at the funeral in Birmingham yesterday of his son John, aged five, accidentally shot dead by police.

Mothers' X-rays put babies at risk of cancer

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Some very young children whose mothers were given X-rays during pregnancy are at increased risk of cancer, researchers have found.

New evidence, based on a study of 555 childhood cancer victims and published in *The Lancet* today, shows higher risks of rare conditions developing in such children's first two years.

The researchers believe that even more caution in taking abdominal X-rays of pregnant women may be necessary.

Links between exposure of the fetus to X-rays and the development of childhood cancer were first reported 30 years ago. Since then, such exposure is generally much less common, involving much lower doses of radiation.

Even so, the researchers studying cases in the Yorkshire, West Midlands and North-west health regions between 1980 and 1983 were surprised that as many as 11 per cent of women in late pregnancy received X-rays which could have affected the fetus. Most of the women

were more than six months pregnant.

They found a "significantly raised risk" of leukaemia diagnosed in children less than two years born to such women. They also found it "striking" that three out of six cases of children under two with a group of blood disorders known as histiocytosis X had been exposed to X-rays in the womb.

Children beyond the age of two whose mothers were X-rayed during pregnancy are not at risk from the named conditions.

Pregnant women receive abdominal X-rays only if there is an urgent need for medical investigation.

Dr Ray Cartwright, an epidemiologist at the Yorkshire Regional Cancer Organization, who took part in the research, said yesterday: "We have produced new findings which need independent scientific confirmation."

The findings were made by the Inter-Regional Epidemiological Study of Childhood Cancer.

Open verdict on Shirley Bassey's daughter

An open verdict was recorded yesterday at the inquest into the death of Samantha Novak, aged 21, Shirley Bassey's unemployed daughter.

A broken watch found on her body recorded the moment she probably fell into the river Avon in Bristol and died of shock from the cold water.

Her body was discovered nine days later a mile from the Clifton suspension bridge, but Det Insp Peter Beardon told the inquest at Bristol: "There is no evidence that she had at any recent time contemplated suicide. I am satisfied that an accident befell her that night."

Sealink cuts services and 250 jobs

Cuts in staff and Sealink services to the Channel Isles and Cherbourg, which lose more than £5 million a year, were announced yesterday.

The staff is to be reduced from 800 to 550, and the ships from four to three.

That means one service a day only between Weymouth and the Channel Isles, and the Portsmouth to Cherbourg service being halted from January to mid-March.

Mr Martin Miller, director of Sealink's Portsmouth and Weymouth services, said: "We probably ought to close down altogether in the light of this year's awful results."

Rape alert delayed 'to forestall alarm'

A senior detective involved in Britain's biggest rape hunt yesterday explained why a public alert about two rapists believed to have attacked 23 women was not given until nearly three months after a computer linked their activities.

"If we had gone public right away and got it wrong we would have been guilty of causing alarm," Det Insp Jim Blann, said. He is a member of the area rape squad, led by Det Supt Ian Harley, which is investigating the attacks on women in Greater London.

The police computer highlighted links between 12 rapes in July but the double threat was made public only yesterday.

Mr Blann denied that earlier warnings could possibly have prevented a jogger from being raped by two men in Finchley Road, north London, on August 2.

"We decided to put more men on the streets in July, including Special Patrol Group officers, but we were still getting

facts together to assure ourselves about the links," he said at the police cadet training college in Hendon, north London, where the squad of 31 is based.

"We are perturbed about the rape on August 2, as we are about all the attacks, but it arose when we had no direct control over the location or the victim."

The two men implicated in the attacks are both white, and in their early 20s. They are armed with knives and attacks have a pattern, usually taking place in a car park or alleyway.

● The police have issued three special numbers for victims who have not reported attacks. They are: 01-200 9600; 01-200 9434 and 01-200 9447.

Specially trained police-women have been drafted in from all over London to comfort rape victims phoning in information. They have been selected for their sensitivity, tact and diplomacy.

Three WPCs are manning the phones from 8 am to 10 pm.

British tests likely for Aids drug

By Our Science Correspondent

A small number of British Aids patients are likely to be treated soon with a new drug that has shown early promise in fighting the disease.

Scientists in Aids in London hospitals are likely to take part in an international programme to assess the safety and effectiveness of the drug.

The compound has been developed in the United States by the British-owned pharmaceutical company, Burroughs Wellcome, and the first phase of clinical trials has begun in America, involving fewer than 20 patients.

Similar numbers of patients will be involved in equivalent trials in Britain and other countries. The American trials will be completed by the end of this year.

The compound, known in the United States as AZT, and in Britain as BW A509U, has been shown to hinder multiplication of the Aids virus in laboratory tests. It appears to offer protection to the cells which the virus attacks and destroys.

Scientists at Burroughs Wellcome have used the same technique in developing the compound which led to the first successful treatment for herpes infections.

That technique involves producing substances which interfere with enzymes essential to viral replication.

If the latest compound proves effective in preventing further destruction of the T-cells attacked by the Aids virus, it could have a therapeutic value, scientists believe.

A spokesman for the Wellcome Foundation, the parent company in London, would not confirm yesterday that British patients will take part soon in trials of the drug.

"It is too soon to draw any conclusions about the safety or efficacy of the compound," he said.

"It is important to evaluate the data from the first clinical trials before we can consider expanding the studies to larger groups of patients."

He confirmed that Wellcome worldwide is urgently considering where to establish trials similar to those in the United States.



Mrs Diana Mycock and her children in Downing Street.

Prison plea to Thatcher

The family of Anthony Mycock, who is halfway through a five-year jail sentence for a burglary which apparently never happened, appealed yesterday to the Prime Minister to help to free him.

Mrs Mabel Shaw, his mother, along with Mycock's wife, Diana and their three children, handed a letter in to 10 Downing Street asking Mrs Thatcher to intervene.

The letter said: "Please can you help and let me know when you will be helping to free my son. He should be home now day with his wife and children who need him."

Police in Manchester in charge of the original case were yesterday studying a filmed BBC interview with Miss Anne Fitzpatrick, the woman who claims she invented the burglary because she was "emotionally upset".

Cat victims of trappers' snares

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

More than 100 cats and 30 dogs were found in snares set to catch foxes for the fur trade, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals said yesterday.

The RSPCA said that fewer than half of the creatures found in snares by its inspectors were of use to the fur trade. Most had been caught by mistake and included rabbits, badgers, hedgehogs and birds.

Mr Jonathan Silk, a superintendent in the RSPCA's team of 230 inspectors, said that snares

were used in Britain because a fox pelt could be worth £25 if it was not mangled by shot.

The RSPCA was opening a campaign to stop the trade in animal fur, most of which is imported to London where about 20 per cent of the world's furs are sold.

Mr George Clements, an official of the Canadian Association for the Protection of Fur-bearing Animals, said that closure of the London trade would help to prevent the trapping in Canada of more

than four million animals a year by 45,000 trappers.

The only legal snare in Britain trapped the animal in a wire snare which, although it must not be self-locking, meant a slow death from strangulation.

Mr Clements said animals caught in Canada for the London trade could still be caught legally in steel toothed traps which fastened on to the leg. Such traps were once used to catch moles in British gardens, but have been banned for more than 30 years.

The shining light of Trinity House

Britain's showpiece lighthouse, the Royal Sovereign, off Eastbourne, is the envy of the Trinity House service - a long way from the "Victorian slum" of the Small's lighthouse.

Its keepers enjoy modern comforts, including a hobby room, laundry and deep freeze, and a helicopter pad provides a convenient link to land.

The lighthouse was built in 1971 as part of a Trinity House modernization programme. It will be many years, however, before older stations, such as Small's in the Bristol Channel, can be brought up to a similar standard.

The "Victorian slum", comparison was made at an industrial tribunal this week.

Mr John Clarke, aged 33, an assistant keeper at Small's who complained about the conditions, was awarded £1,800 compensation by the tribunal after he was dismissed for refusing to work there until a shower was installed.

Mr Ken Lucas, a spokesman for Trinity House, which runs Britain's lighthouses, said yesterday: "We are gradually updating the rock lighthouse, but the Victorian architecture presents a lot of problems. It is virtually impossible to build

extensions to improve accommodation."

There are 90 lighthouses operating around the coastline of England and Wales, 44 of which are manned. All rock lighthouses have flush lavatories, except Small's and the Wolf Rock, off Land's End.

A shower was installed three months after Mr Clarke's dismissal from Small's. A Trinity House engineer told the tribunal hearing that a shower was not installed earlier because of electrical problems and expense.

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LABOUR CONFERENCE/BOURNEMOUTH

Triumphant Kinnock gets warning from left

By Philip Webster and Martin Fletcher

A jubilant Mr Neil Kinnock yesterday hailed the party conference which ended yesterday as "a great week for Labour, a great week for the country".

But after a week in which Mr Kinnock's standing has been enhanced by his decision to confront the Militant left, the Labour leader was warned that in his quest for power he must not ignore his traditional supporters on the left.

Mr David Blunkett, leader of Sheffield City Council and a prominent figure on the "re-aligned left" which sustains Mr Kinnock on Labour's national executive, said in a BBC interview: "We will pull together. We hope we get the kind of response from Neil Kinnock that he seeks from us."

Behind Mr Blunkett's words was the feeling of several key figures that Mr Kinnock's keynote

speech on Tuesday, although striking a chord in the country, could have gone too far in alienating Labour councillors in the country. The mainstream left will continue to support him but have told him that he must take them into his confidence more. They are upset that Mr Kinnock may have consulted prominent right-wingers, but not them, about his speech.

That was clearly behind Mr Blunkett's unilateral initiative to solve the Liverpool crisis the following morning, which upset many in the Shadow Cabinet.

But the conference has undoubtedly been a triumph for the leader and delegates appeared to be leaving in better heart than for many years. Mr Larry Whitty, the party general secretary, told the conference yesterday that it had sown a serious and democratic image.

HOMOSEXUALITY LAW

Delegates back gays on age of consent

A policy to end discrimination against lesbians and "gay" men, which would have the effect of lowering the homosexual age of consent to 16, was carried on a card vote, against the advice of the National Executive Committee, which wanted the motion remitted to it for further discussion.

The motion set out a charter for lesbian and gay rights including repeal of "all criminal laws which discriminate against lesbians and gay men". Ms Jo Richardson, for the NEC, said that that passage gave rise to legal difficulty over the age of consent.

Conference passed the motion by 3,395,000 to 2,805,000. The motion called upon all Labour local authorities to enforce equal opportunities for lesbians and gay men and instructed the NEC to organize a campaign of education among Labour Party and trade union members.

Moving the motion, Sarah Rodford, Hornsey and Wood Green, said she was proud to be a lesbian. "Heterosexism" perpetuated oppressive ideas that heterosexuality was the only normal sexuality.

Gay people were seen as the perpetrators of Aids instead of the victims. Lesbian mothers were denied custody of their children. One MP had told her they should be building a new Jerusalem, not Sodom and Gomorrah. She wanted no part in that Jerusalem unless it included them.

Seconding the motion, Mr Charlie Beaton, Bristol South, said this issue had never been debated at the Labour conference before. Some said gays were an electoral liability, but that was only the case when

there was a deception. It was not a problem with honest candidates. Ms Terry Conway, Islington North, said she had been moved by the account of how the miners and their families in South Wales had taken gay people to their hearts when they supported them during the miners dispute.

Mr William Evans, Ogmore, speaking against the motion, said Labour had more important things to do. A slow handclap interrupted him until the chairman, Mr Alan Haddon, called for the delegate to be heard.

Mr Evans said: "Because of this unnatural act we have this disease of Aids spread throughout the world. We should be trying to get rid of the sickness in society, educating people to eliminate it." (Boos).

A delegate who did not give his name came to the rostrum on a point of order and said: "I come here as a gay delegate. I am not ill. That last speech should have been ruled out of order." (Applause).

Winding up for the NEC, Ms Richardson, MP for Barking, said socialists did not question the call for equality for women or black people but it was different when sexuality was discussed. They paid lip service to support for gay rights but when it came to standing up for them in employment, housing and other areas they copped out, saying it was a matter of conscience.

Children had far more to fear from heterosexuality than gay men and women yet it was said that heterosexuals should be banned from certain jobs because they could be child molesters.

CIVIL RIGHTS

Tory claims scorned over liberty

The conference gave overwhelming support to motions calling for the repeal by a Labour government of the 1980 and 1982 Employment Acts, the 1984 Trade Union Act and the 1981 Nationality Act.

Ms Jo Richardson, recommending the motions on behalf of the NEC, scorned Conservative claims to be the party of freedom.

"While the Government claims to oppose attacks on workers' rights in, for example, Poland or South Africa, if workers in this country stage sympathy strikes with Solidarity or the African National Congress they could face action in the courts."

"It is ironic that the party which puts itself forward as a people's party, the party which the EEC has found itself in the doghouse of the European Court of Human Rights over the issue of immigration widows."

A motion which included a call for a Bill of Rights and an associated court was remitted to the NEC.

Iran outrage

The war between Iran and Iraq was compared to the Battle of the Somme by Mr Eric Heffer for the NEC. Delegates carried a motion committing Labour to use every opportunity to condemn the Khomeini regime.

Nicaragua aid

A future Labour government would supply aid to Nicaragua unless the United States ceased funding the Contra rebels, delegates decided.

DRUG AND SOLVENT ABUSE

Community action to help addicts

Delegates carried overwhelmingly a resolution urging a campaign to increase public awareness of the dangers of drug and solvent abuse. It called on the next Labour government to make the problem one of its main priorities.

It asked the party to back statutory funding for community-based counselling and treatment centres, long-term

treatment facilities, improved customs services, drugs education in schools and discussion by constituency Labour Parties of how to clear pushers.

Mr Roy Gladden, Liverpool West Derby, who moved the resolution, said that drug addiction followed closely upon the heels of unemployment.

Seconding, Mr Tom Smith, Strathkelvin and Bearsden, said

there were 50,000 addicts in this country, five times more than in 1979. "Once it might have been the down-and-outs or the people with the money to get the kicks in life. Now it is our children."

Anne Davis, Bromsgrove, replying for the NEC, said trafficking in hard drugs was the fastest growing industry in Britain.



A South African policeman approaching a blazing meat delivery truck set alight by rioting youths in the Mitchells Plain area yesterday.

Church makes abstention a sin to goad Portuguese voters

From Richard Wigg, Lisbon

Election-weary Portuguese will vote tomorrow for their fifth Parliament in nine years. The likeliest prospect is a minority government, or another coalition with the Social Democrats, this time trying an alliance with the conservatives, substituting Centre Democrats for Socialists.

As campaigning ended last night to make way for the customary 24-hours of "reflection", party managers were worrying that after such a surfeit of party politics in so few years many voters might prefer to stay at home.

They were given some solace by the church. Dom Ernesto Gonçalves, Bishop of the Algarve, declared in a pastoral letter that for Catholics it would be "a sin not to vote".

Professor Anibal Cavaco Silva, the Social Democrats'

new leader, who engineered the collapse of the two-year coalition with the Socialists, whom his party is now challenging for first place, ended his campaigning in Lisbon with a strong personal attack on Dr Mario Soares, the caretaker Prime Minister.

"Why is he now promising to do tomorrow what he omitted to do yesterday?" Senhor Cavaco asked amid much applause, criticising Dr Soares' sudden spurt of touring the country listening to people's complaints.

After so many general elections arguments have grown threadbare. The Socialists simply depict Dr Antonio Almeida Santos, their candidate, as a puppet of the Prime Minister, with the slogan "43 per cent to govern Portugal", the proportion of votes they calculate they need for an

outright parliamentary majority. "Fulfillment with competence" is the Social Democrats' battle cry, and the extreme left-wing People's Democratic Union simply proclaims: "We have solutions".

Propaganda pressure has led to protests by Portugal's journalists. Those in the state-run Broadcasting Corporation accused the Socialists this week of demanding that a favourable mention for the party on television must accompany each negative one.

Senhor Mario Mesquita, editor for the past 10 years of Lisbon's leading daily, the state-owned *Diário da Manhã*, chose yesterday to announce he would be resigning in the new year. He said he had lost a fight with political leaders over many years to run an independent newspaper.

Nuclear atoll on full alert for protest boat flotilla

Mururoa (Reuters) - Physicists huddled in thatched huts have been making last minute calculations for a new French nuclear test in the South Pacific as warships shadowed a protest flotilla gathering over the horizon.

A full alert had been declared on the atoll of Mururoa, 750 miles south-east of Tahiti, where the latest in a series of French nuclear explosions that has angered regional governments will take place deep in the rock of a dormant volcano beneath a lagoon.

The military plotted strategy for dealing with four protest vessels of the Government environmental group which were closing in from several points.

But while warships played a cat-and-mouse game with the ecologists offshore, the blue waters of Mururoa lagoon were dotted with sailboards. Joggers trotted past off-duty soldiers lazing under palm trees, and tennis matches were in full swing.

Out at sea, the navy tug Revi was shadowing the first arrival of the Greenpeace flotilla, the yacht Vega.

Less than two miles separated the vessels as they bobbed just

outside a 12-mile zone which France has closed to shipping for the duration of the tests. French officers were also expecting the protesters' flagship Greenpeace, and two other yachts.

Air Force Colonel Jacques Vuillemin, the test-site commander, said his regular force of 1,500 marines and Foreign Legionnaires was backed by special reinforcements. A senior officer said they comprised 20 marine commandos and 12 members of a police anti-terrorist squad.

Military and civilian chiefs have vowed to adopt a dissuasive approach, and hoped to avoid violence.

Foreign Legion Lieutenant-Colonel Jean Rigoux said it was "a question of presenting an iron fist in a velvet glove".

On board the Greenpeace, the protest co-ordinator, Mr Gero Leipold, said he did not seek a confrontation. "We are here to make a peaceful protest against nuclear testing by France."

The protest has attracted global attention since French agents acting on orders from Paris mined the Greenpeace flagship Rainbow Warrior in Auckland harbour in July.

Journalist killed by Russians

Islamabad (Reuters) - An American reporter travelling in southern Afghanistan with Muslim guerrillas was killed during a Soviet commando ambush on their truck, a colleague who survived the attack said yesterday.

Mr Charles Thornton and three guerrillas were killed at the start of the all-night attack by about 40 helicopter-borne Soviet troops near the city of Kandahar. Mr Peter Schluter, an American photographer, said.

Speaking by telephone from the western Pakistan city of Quetta, he said the attackers pinned down the survivors with gunfire, fired flares to light the area and shot mortar round at the truck until it was set on fire.

Mr Schluter jumped from the truck when the attack began and lost sight of Thornton. Both were from the *Arizona Republic* in Phoenix, and with a male nurse, Mr John Maugnum, were on their way back to Pakistan when they were ambushed on September 19.

He said: "We were so close I could hear them yelling their commands while they were firing on us. I saw their helicopter. He did not recognize the language but rebels identified the attackers as Russian."

The Russian troops, apparently coming under fire from another rebel group, withdrew after eight hours and the next day Thornton's body was found partly burnt.

Mr Schluter, aged 29, and Thornton, aged 50, a married man with two sons, were in Afghanistan to report for their newspaper on two Americans setting up a clinic for war-wounded at Chinarto, a guerrilla-held area about 30 miles north of Kandahar.

After the ambush, Mr Schluter said, he hid in a mountain cave for several days, then was taken by truck to a small rebel base where he stayed until setting off on Monday for Pakistan.

Theologian berates the Pope

From Peter Nichols, Rome

A slashing attack on the "seven lean years" of the pontificate of Pope John Paul II came from Father Hans Kung, the radical Swiss theologian, just as the Vatican's busy autumn of high-level meetings is about to begin.

The most important event will be the special Synod summoned by the Pope to begin on November 24 to review the application of the Second Vatican Council's decisions after 20 years.

The council, called by Pope John XXIII, is regarded as a turning point in modern ecclesiastical history.

Professor Kung says the present Pope aims to undo the council's work. His attack is published just before the Pope delivers the second of his Sunday talks on the council's importance.

Professor Kung, who has his licence to teach as an official Catholic theologian withdrawn by the Vatican in December 1979, says that even the Pope's admirers have now grasped his real intentions: "Brakes must be applied to the council movement; internal reform of the Church must be arrested; canonical understanding with the oriental churches, with the Protestants and the Anglicans, must be blocked; and dialogue with the modern world newly replaced by unilateral teaching authority."

Peking and Moscow keep talking

Peking (Reuters) - Chinese and Soviet negotiators yesterday resumed talks in Peking on how to normalize their strained relations. Foreign diplomats said there were signs of a more positive attitude on both sides.

The Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr Leonid Ilyichov, will meet his counterpart, Mr Qian Qichen, for about four days in the seventh round of talks since 1982.

Mr Ilyichov said at Peking airport on Wednesday that the two Foreign Ministers, Mr Wu Zueqian and Mr Deardard Shevardnadze, had agreed in principle to exchange visits. It would be the first such exchange since the bitter split between the two powers over foreign policy, ideological and border issues in the early 1960s.

China invited a Soviet delegation to anniversary celebrations this week in the remote north-western Xinjiang region, which was long a border flashpoint.

Soviet leaders sent a cable to mark China's national day on Tuesday, calling for much better relations. But diplomats say the two sides differ on what normalization means.

China says Moscow must withdraw from Afghanistan, halt support for Vietnam's presence in Cambodia, and reduce its forces in Mongolia and on Soviet soil.

Moscow says it will not discuss these issues because they concern third countries.

Shultz tells Pretoria to talk now or face a violent end

From Michael Binyon, Washington

Since President Reagan's imposition of sanctions against South Africa last month, the US has been taking an increasingly tough public line with Pretoria, culminating this week in war-torn South Africa before the Commonwealth summit opens in Nassau on October 16 (Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes).

Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, said earlier this week: "The only alternative to a radical, violent outcome is a political accommodation now, before it is too late."

Elaborating on this in an interview with *The New York Times* yesterday, he said: "In my judgement it is over. It can't last." He again called for the release of Mr Nelson Mandela, and negotiations with the African National Congress.

He said there came a time when people stopped arguing about whether apartheid was a good idea, and accepted that it was irrelevant.

"It's going to disappear," he said. The question was how to manage the transition. This was the question the US wanted the South Africans to address while there was still a real chance of doing so through discussion and negotiation.

"If it isn't addressed, we can have a cycle of continued violence and at least one can readily imagine this blowing up into a really violent upheaval," he said.

● Final appeal: Sir Shridath Ramphal, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, yesterday made a final appeal to Britain to reconsider its opposition to economic sanctions against South Africa before the Commonwealth summit opens in Nassau on October 16 (Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes).

Noting that the value of British assets in South Africa had already fallen by 30 per cent because of "President Botha's resistance to change," he said British interests could be more seriously affected by a continuous racial unrest in the republic than the introduction of selective economic sanctions. He was speaking at a lunch in London to introduce his 1985 report on the Commonwealth which will formally be presented at the Nassau summit.

● HARARE: Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, is likely to be the chief protagonist at the Nassau summit for Britain to take a tougher line on South Africa (Jan Raath writes).

But sources here expect him to come under considerable pressure from other quarters to moderate his position, in the interest of consensus among Commonwealth leaders.

Mr Mugabe was leaving last night, but before going to Nassau will visit Cuba, Nicaragua and Guyana.

Health fears for Bhutto's daughter

From Hasan Akhtar, Islamabad

The Pakistan People's Party founded by the executed Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto has expressed serious concern about the failing health of his daughter, Miss Benazir Bhutto. She has been under house arrest since late August, when she arrived in Pakistan from Europe for the funeral of her brother, Shahnawaz Bhutto.

Miss Bhutto, the political heir to her father, was told by the Sind Government in Karachi that her presence and free movement threatened public peace. Miss Bhutto, who had been abroad for 19 months until returning in August, said she would not cause political agitation against the martial law regime before the end of the year, when the authorities have promised to end military rule.

She is said to have ear and eye troubles, and her supporters say she had not had proper medical treatment during detention. Miss Bhutto had earlier spent about four years in detention after her father was overthrown in a military coup by General Zia Ul-Haq, the present military ruler and President.

The People's Party executive, in a resolution, also condemned the Martial Law Indemnity Bill as a conspiracy against political forces. The resolution said that members of the National Assembly who backed the Government's Indemnity Bill, would be considered to have violated article six of the constitution, which provides execution for treason.

Meanwhile, the Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors circulated a 14-point voluntary code of ethics for government press relations which seeks the right for journalists to protect sources of information. The editors want the Government to relax its tight control over the press by accepting the code.

Rebels freed in Salvador kidnap case

San Salvador (Reuters) - The Government of El Salvador has freed three captured left-wing rebels to show good faith towards the guerrilla kidnappers of President Duarte's eldest daughter, sources close to negotiations on her release said.

Two of the rebels, a top guerrilla intelligence officer and his wife, had flown to an unidentified country on Tuesday. The third, a woman, had chosen to remain in El Salvador.

The intelligence officer, Señor Carlos Antonio Zepeda González, and the woman who chose to stay in this country were among 34 guerrillas whose freedom was demanded by the kidnappers of Señora Ines Guadalupe Duarte Duran in return for her release.

Señor Zepeda González, known by the guerrilla pseudonym Fernando, was the chief intelligence officer of the popular Liberation Forces, one of five rebel organizations grouped as the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN), and fighting the Washington-backed government.

Señora Duarte Duran's kidnappers have identified themselves as the Pedro Pablo Castillo guerrilla command of the FMLN. In addition to freedom for the 34, they have demanded a halt to all military operations in El Salvador.

The three rebels were freed after negotiations between the Duarte government and the abductors. In the hope of achieving the release of Señora Duarte Duran, her companion or any of more than 20 majors kidnapped in guerrilla-held towns over the past few months.

Diplomats and government sources said nine of the 34 rebels sought in return for Señora Duarte Duran's release were not in government hands and were believed to have long been dead.

Accused junta leader defends 'dirty war'

From Our Correspondent, Buenos Aires

Argentina's former Navy commander, Admiral Emilio Massera, used his day in court on Thursday to defend the military's "dirty war" against subversion in the late 1970s, and to warn his enemies that "the armed forces are capable of defeating them again."

"I am here on trial because we won a just war," he told the court trying him and eight other military leaders on human rights charges. "If we had lost, neither you nor I would be here, because these courts would have been replaced by people's tribunals."

"The enemy is full of fear, a lot of fear, because (they) know

the armed forces of today are as capable of defeating them as were the armed forces of yesterday," he said after claiming that human rights groups were manipulated by Marxist terrorists and that the military "won the war of weapons but lost the psychological war."

Admiral Massera accepted responsibility ("But not guilty," he was careful to add) for the military's actions. "If the court needs to finish us off (the nine former junta members), then go ahead and do so, but do not rob Argentina of its only victory this century."

The admiral said he was not getting a fair trial.

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مكزامن التحصيل

Floodlit search for couple feared killed by PLO group

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Israeli soldiers and police yesterday continued to search a hilly, wooded area near Beit Shemesh in the occupied West Bank about 20 miles west of Jerusalem, for a young couple feared to have been killed by Palestinian extremists.

An anonymous caller to the Agence France Presse office in Jerusalem yesterday claimed that the couple whose car was found locked and empty near Beit Shemesh had been murdered by Force 17, the Palestinian Liberation Organization group Israel says was responsible for organizing the shooting of three people in Larnaca, Cyprus, 10 days ago.

A similar call was made to the news agency by someone claiming to speak for Force 17 on the Larnaca murders.

The young couple, Enda Harari, aged 22, and Moshav Tirosh, aged 24, have not been heard of since Wednesday despite repeated radio appeals for them to contact police. The search in the wild area where the car was found on Thursday has continued at night with floodlights and flares.

Meanwhile, there are growing signs that the Middle East peace process will survive the Israeli revenge bombing of the PLO's headquarters in Tunis. President Mubarak of Egypt has received a letter from Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, and has said: "We still are for peace."

There are also signs of a compromise about setting up an international conference, to include the Soviet Union, which King Hussein of Jordan

wants to act as a framework for a negotiated peace. Diplomatic sources say the United States, which has always opposed such a conference, is toying with the idea of allowing Moscow to participate.

Mr Peres, strengthened politically at home by having ordered the Tunis raid, has hinted he could be ready to accept a conference involving the US, Britain and France, and that he might even accept the Soviet Union if the Kremlin first restored diplomatic relations.

● CAIRO: Israel deliberately avoided killing Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, in its raid on his headquarters in Tunis Dr David Owen, the leader of the Social Democratic Party told a press conference here yesterday at the end of a Middle East tour (see other reports). He had no evidence, but was confident he was correct, he said. "I do not believe that it was an accident that Yasser Arafat was not in the premises at the time the raid took place. The Israelis knew exactly where he was."

"The fact that they don't want as yet to try to finish off Arafat implies that they recognize that what comes afterwards might be a lot worse."

Dr Owen, who met Mr Peres and other Israeli leaders the day after the raid, said he condemned the attack, but if Mr Arafat continued to talk peace and "practice terror" at the same time, he would have to accept that Israel would continue to retaliate.

Leading article, page 9

Thatcher defends visit as hope for peace

Mrs Margaret Thatcher hopes her forthcoming talks with two PLO officials will reactivate the peace process in the Middle East (see other reports).

"I am trying to get a peace process going," she said in an interview with Israeli correspondents in London this week.

"I want to encourage the moderate part of the PLO, those who do reject terrorism."

Mrs Thatcher, who invited members of the PLO to talks in London during her visit to Jordan and Egypt last month, defended herself against Israel's criticism of the move.

"I believe them to be men of peace... who are coming on the understanding that they reject terrorism. It is not a PLO delegation. We would never receive that. It is a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation."

She hoped it would "activate the whole peace process, which seems to have got rather bogged down at the moment."

The two members of the PLO executive, Anglican bishop Elia Khoury and Mohammed Milhem, former mayor of the West Bank town of Hehoul, are due to join two senior Jordanian

officials at the talks this month with the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe.

Mrs Thatcher said she also wanted to assist King Hussein of Jordan in his efforts to promote Jordanian-Palestinian talks with Israel under international auspices.

"He has gone right out on a limb to encourage the moderate ones and I think he needs a little help." That, she said, was behind her invitation to the PLO officials.

She denied her invitation would undermine American peace efforts in the Middle East, quoting the US Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz as welcoming the initiative.

Mrs Thatcher also vehemently denied any link between the London talks and Britain's sale to Saudi Arabia of military equipment worth £2.8 billion and to Jordan of £260 million of weapons.

"I am anxious that the peace process should continue so we decided that this was something we could do to help it. There is no connection whatever between the Saudi Arabian deal and that."

Tehran counters Kharg raids with mobilization

Tehran - The speaker of the Iranian Parliament, Hojatoleslam Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani yesterday called for a limited mobilization of young Iranians, who have already received military training.

Speaking at the university here, he told them immediately to return to their military centres and to prepare themselves for "possible foreign intervention" in the Gulf if Iran decided to close the Strait of Hormuz in response to any cutting of its oil exports.

He was speaking the day after Iraq launched its latest attack on Iranian oil installations in the north-eastern Gulf and then announced a "final decision" to

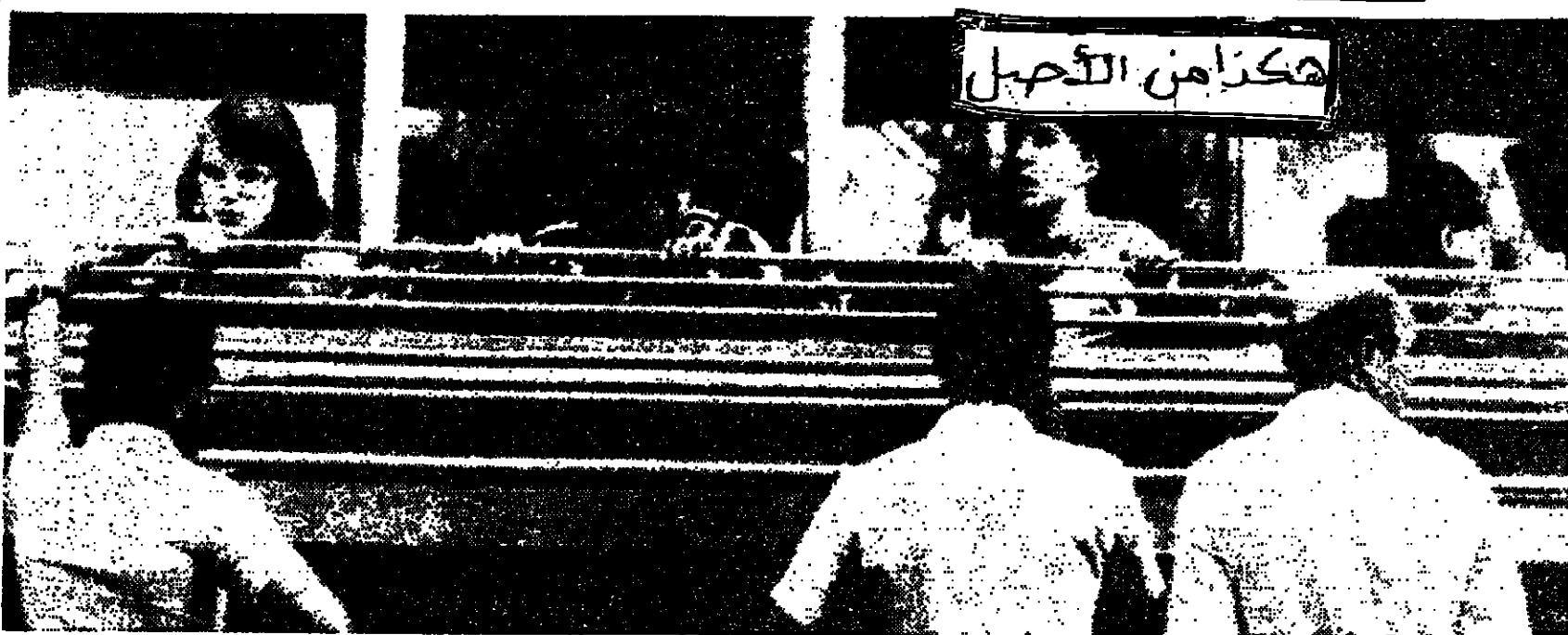
destroy Kharg island, Iran's key oil export outlet.

But he added that if this "precaution" turned out to be limited mobilization of young Iranians, who have already received military training.

The Iranian speaker said that although current developments in the war with Iraq centred on the Gulf, foreign intervention was "unlikely" because a decision by Iran to close the Strait of Hormuz, which could provoke the intervention, would only follow a total halt to Iranian oil exports.

He said he had made a recent trip to Kharg which had enabled him to see that new methods of transporting the crude oil

Suicide bombs threat forces out Soviet embassy staff



On board a bus near the embassy, Russian women waiting to be driven to safety yesterday. In all, 120 people were being evacuated.

Kidnaps shatter Russia's Beirut tea party

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

For citizens of a nation that took something of an active interest in the left-wing guerrillas of the Lebanese civil war, the staff of the Soviet Union's embassy in west Beirut had experienced a charmed life until three of their diplomats and the embassy doctor were kidnapped last Monday.

The Russians here arranged for hundreds of members of Mr Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization to visit Moscow for military and political training in the years before the Israeli invasion of 1982 and the Soviet Ambassador regularly appeared at military parades held by Druze militiamen in the Chouf mountains of Lebanon.

Indeed, even today, the Druze still obtain almost all

their weapons direct from the Soviet Union - heavy artillery and vehicles are transhipped through the Syrian port of Latakia to Lebanon - and the Syrian Army which still controls most of the north of the country with 25,000 men is exclusively equipped with Soviet weaponry.

The few Soviet officials and journalists permitted to speak to foreigners, including Western correspondents in Beirut, have shown themselves familiar with Syrian military tactics and with the latest weapons being used by Syrian troops in Lebanon, although they have sometimes been harshly critical in private of Syrian Army morale and of the behaviour of left-wing militias here who are nominally loyal to

Moscow.

Soviet officials enjoyed lunching out with Western acquaintances at a small restaurant in Makhoul Street - since blown up by gunmen - and in a roomy Armenian cafe in east Beirut where Soviet Embassy personnel maintained a permanent account. But over the past two years their movements have been restricted.

Even KGB officers inside the embassy are said to have been ordered to keep their movements to a minimum.

Yet for all its political involvement among the militias here, the Embassy turned out to be of little use to the Palestinians when they were trapped in Beirut by the Israeli Army in 1982. After a series of

heavy, Israeli air raids, Mr Nayef Hawatmeh, the leader of the Pro-Moscow Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, hurried to see the Soviet Ambassador in August of that year in a desperate attempt to acquire more hand-held anti-aircraft missiles in a Syrian air drop. He left, ash-faced, after half an hour with the words: "All they will give us is the moral support of Chairman Brezhnev."

When Israel invaded west Beirut, its soldiers broke into the Soviet embassy in breach of diplomatic rules and rifled through files.

But the radical Islamic forces which had already turned against the Russians as well as the Americans in Iran began to make their presence

felt in Beirut. Moscow's alliance with Syria placed the Russians in opposition to the Sunni nationalists both in Syria - where several Russian Embassy officials were murdered and where a massive car bomb exploded outside the diplomatic compound in Damascus - and in Lebanon itself. Last year rocket-propelled grenades were fired at the embassy in Beirut. Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility.

Even some Western diplomats in the city are not entirely convinced that Russia's enemies in Lebanon are merely Sunni extremists. "If the Israelis don't have people causing trouble for the Russians here, I'd be very surprised," one Western embassy official said yesterday.

Philippines opposition ready for snap poll

From Paul Routledge, Davao City, Philippines

Opposition politicians in the Philippines have revised their predictions and are now preparing for a snap presidential election early next year.

Their choice of candidate to take on the ailing president Marcos, aged 68, is rapidly narrowing to the leader of the United opposition alliance, Mr Salvador Laurel, with Mrs Corason Aquino, widow of the murdered opposition leader Benigno Aquino as his vice-presidential running mate.

Regional opposition figures met in Davao City yesterday and agreed to sink their differences to support a common contender in the hope of unseating the President and his ruling New Society Government.

The spokesman for the alliance of centre and left-wing parties, Mr Dominador "Boy"

Zuno, said after the two-hour meeting: "The coming election will not be a fight between communism and democracy but between dictatorship and true democracy."

Mr Laurel visits the populous southern island of Mindanao next week as part of a warm-up electoral campaign.

● MANILA: The shooting of a Protestant pastor and a Catholic priest in Davao City this week brings to 10 the number of church people killed so far this year (Keith Dalton writes).

The state-run Philippine News Agency said police blamed the killing on Wednesday of the Rev Solomon Improso on a liquidation squad of the left-wing New People's Army. Mr Improso was shot after he refused to hand over his new motorcycle to the gunmen.

Job row stalls Palme reshuffle

Stockholm (Reuters) - A dispute with Norway over the choice of a Nordic candidate to be United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees prevented the Swedish Prime Minister, Mr Olof Palme, from naming a new Defence Minister yesterday.

Mr Palme did, however, set up two new ministries in a government reshuffle. He put a minister in charge of public sector pay, and named an Environment Minister.

Sweden wants its Defence Minister, Mr Anders Thunborg, to be the UN candidate, but Norway refuses to stand down. It is backing its UN representative, Mr Tom Vraalsen, for the post at present held by Mr Poul Hartling of Denmark.

Swedish diplomats say a new effort will be made to persuade Norway when the five Nordic foreign ministers meet in Oslo on October 17 and 18.

Yesterday's reshuffle was the first since the Social Democratic Government lost its parliamentary majority in the elections on September 15.

Mr Bengt Johansson, a budget expert who was previously a Deputy Finance Minister, becomes minister without portfolio in charge of wages policy for the huge public sector in time for important pay talks.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Ingvar Carlsson, is to combine his present job with leadership of the new Ministry of the Environment.

The three men held after the Larnaca killings appearing in court in Nicosia. They are (from left) Khaled Abdul Kader al Khatib, Ian Michael Davison and Abdul Kahik Sado Khalifa.

Yachtsmen hold memorial at marina for three murdered Israelis

From Our Correspondent, Larnaca, Cyprus

Israeli yachtsmen held a memorial service in Larnaca marina yesterday for the three Israelis killed by gunmen last week as a British and two Arabs arrested in connection with the deaths re-appeared in court in Nicosia.

A plaque to commemorate the three said they were "murdered in cold blood by terrorists... on the Jewish Day of Atonement."

Israelis on board 27 yachts that arrived in the harbour for the ceremony derided PLO claims that the three were spies who had been sent to Cyprus to collect information on Palestinian guerrillas travelling from

the island to Lebanon.

The PLO has denied involvement in the killings, but Israel bombed the PLO headquarters in Tunis, killing at least 60 people.

Reuven Palzur, his wife Esther and Abraham Avnery - all in their fifties - were shot dead on board their yacht 10 days ago.

Police arrested Mr Ian Michael Davison, from South Shields, and two Arabs, Mr Khaled Abdul Kader al-Khatib and Mr Abdul Kahik Sado Khalifa. All three were remanded in custody at Nicosia Central Court yesterday. The two Arabs, identified by their

real names for the first time, chatted during the brief hearing.

The yachts that arrived in Larnaca yesterday came from Tel Aviv and Haifa, where the Palzurs lived.

Yachtsmen said his wife was a volunteer worker at Haifa hospital and a member of a foundation to fight cancer. Mr Avnery was married with two children and had been a tourist guide at the Dead Sea.

Mr Daniel Shaffito, a friend of the Palzurs' son, said the three could not have been intelligence agents. "I know it's absurd - everyone knows it's absurd. When Reuven went sailing it was a hobby..."

Five new ministers named in Panama

Panama City (Reuters, NYT) - The new President of Panama, Señor Eric Arturo del Valle, has appointed five new ministers from the ruling military-backed coalition party.

The new Cabinet was announced five days after the former President, Señor Nicolas Aroito Barletta, resigned because he had lost the confidence of the powerful defence forces in his ability to handle Panama's worsening economic crisis.

Señor Rodolfo Chari was named Interior Minister to replace Señor Jorge Roca, who diplomats said had displeased the military by calling for a detailed inquiry into the murder two weeks ago of Dr Hugo

Spadafora, a former minister and a prominent critic of the armed forces.

Dr Spadafora's relatives say there is overwhelming evidence of military involvement in his murder. Officials have said Señor Barletta, support for an independent investigation was the final catalyst for his departure.

Señor Hector Alexander, a close associate of the defence forces chief, General Manuel Antonio Noriega, was appointed Finance Minister.

There are several indications that the Army may have killed Dr Spadafora, whose headless body was found in Costa Rica two weeks ago. In their

investigations the Costa Rican police found two witnesses who gave sworn testimony that they saw Dr Spadafora being detained by a Panamanian corporal at a military checkpoint on entering Panama.

A witness who lives near where the body was found also told police he had seen two olive green cars of a make used by the Panamanian Army leave the site late in the night before the body was discovered. There is no checkpoint on the Costa Rican side of the border.

All indications suggest that Dr Spadafora was killed in Panamanian territory and his body thrown in Costa Rican territory, the police report says.

Señor Barletta, originally selected to become President by General Noriega, was already falling from favour because he had failed to revive the country's debt-burdened economy. He alienated virtually every sector of Panamanian society with ineptly presented policies offering tighter taxes, cuts in protective tariffs, and reduced privileges for labour unions.

According to Panamanian and foreign political analysts, General Noriega summarily summoned Señor Barletta from the United Nations General Assembly meeting in New York on Thursday last week.

Uruguay gets debt pledge in Madrid

From Harry Debellus Madrid

President Sanguinetti of Uruguay ended his official visit to Spain yesterday having been assured that Madrid will back his efforts to renegotiate his country's substantial foreign debt.

Señor Sanguinetti flew to Barcelona for a private visit after two days in Madrid during which he conferred with King Juan Carlos and Señor Felipe Gonzalez, the Prime Minister, and addressed the Lower House of Parliament, the Congress of Deputies. It was the first official visit to Spain by a president of Uruguay.

A statement signed by President Sanguinetti and Señor Gonzalez emphasized the need for "an adequate process of renegotiation of Uruguay's foreign debt" and expressed the concern of both Governments at "protectionist tendencies... the effects of which can seriously damage foreign trade, with special incidence in the



Señor Sanguinetti put his case to Spanish MPs.

exports of developing countries."

The statement expressed Uruguay's "support for Spain's integration in the EEC, which should be to the benefit of closer relations between the two continents."

Señor Sanguinetti also paid special attention to the debt in his speech in Parliament on Thursday: "Behind every protectionist action by an industrial power lies threat to freedoms in our nations, and also behind those actions - apparently merely economic in nature - there are political implications..."

"What's the point of speaking today only about technical mechanisms for the financial management of a debt, when on the other hand we have a trade system which makes it impossible for us to pay it?"

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SEP 30 - OCT 6

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SPORTING DIARY

Simon Barnes

Softies at heart

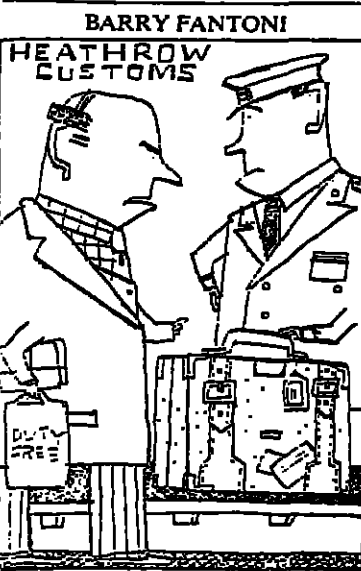
As Our Boys prepare to tour the West Indies and face the fearsome ranks of the world's greatest fast bowlers, rest assured they have a new secret weapon. Although cricketers have sensibly abandoned all shame about protective gear, a notable area of the body has remained unprotected: batsmen are vulnerable to the rib ball that jumps at your heart. The only protection cricketers had came up with was a 1½-inch-thick lump of foam which had to be strapped or stuck across the ribs. It took Jackie Hall from Northumberland, who designs protective clothing for riders, to invent something more sensible. After going into business with a garment that is now worn by most professional cricketers, she produced a cricketer's rib protector from the Cumbria cricket team. Paul Romanes, a Newcastle lad playing with Gloucestershire, suggested modifications to ensure that the garment does not restrict even the most energetic batsman. The result is a sort of waistcoat, with the side facing the bowler carefully padded, and it can be worn beneath the shirt without attracting unfavourable comment. Orders have already been received from Mike Gatting (extra large) and Paul Downton, both of whom will be getting their share of rib balls in the New Year.

First service

Have we a bright new hope in British tennis? Percy Rossetti, the Swedish Davis Cup coach and one of the "discoverers" of Bjorn Borg, thinks he might: he has taken 16-year-old Heath Marshall from Wales under his coaching wing in Sweden. He says the boy has the ability to join the elite in the fullness of time. Marshall doesn't win junior tournaments because he hits the ball too hard. This, says the expert, is anything but a promising sign: control can come later. If Marshall wins Wimbledon, remember you read it here first.

Enlightened

Unesco, which honoured the Danish "Rolfing" football supporters for their niceness, have been handing out more awards for extraordinary examples of sporting behaviour. Each case involves turning away from an Olympic medal. A Polish weightlifter, Dariusz Zawadzki, was designated bronze medal winner in Los Angeles last year as the lighter competitor in a tie for third place. But he returned the medal to the jury, saying the computer was wrong and that he was 500 grams heavier than his rival. Egyptian judo competitor Mohamed Ali Rashwan, drawn against a Japanese whose right leg was injured, concentrated his attack on the left. He was beaten as a result - but there is, as Steve Davis said, a kind of beauty in defeat.



Nothing to declare - it's all been stolen

British edition

A bookshop devoted entirely to sporting books, named Sportspace, has opened near Cambridge Circus in London. The proprietor, a New Zealander called John Gaustad, believes it is the only one in the country. "I'd like to claim it as the only one in the world," he said. "But I know there is one in Virginia".

Flying catch

The heavy mob have moved in on the recent correspondence concerning cricket ornithology. The hawk-eyed outlanders of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds team have an impressive collection of spoils, including a Peregrine Falcon seen in Edinburgh, and an extraordinary Dipper at Clarkston, near Glasgow. Dippers are supposed to spend their lives mucking about near rushing streams, but the bird in question made a foray on to the field from a nearby river. Other notable sightings include a Hobby, a Grasshopper Warbler, a Whinchat, a Greenfinch, a Hawfinch, and a Kittiwake. An RSPB team member, Nick Hammond, offers as a bonus the unauthenticated story of a felder who lunged for the ball and caught a swallow instead.

Tail order

The organizers of the Commonwealth Games, which will be held, God and politics willing, in Edinburgh next summer, have asked all 58 Commonwealth countries for the height and weight of their likely team members. That way, they will be able to allocate king-sized beds for oarsmen, weightlifters and other king-sized chaps.

How many are really jobless?

by David Young

Every month the holder of my office has the role of announcing the "unemployment figures". I did so on Thursday and they showed that there were 3,346,000 people unemployed in September - including school leavers, who always make the figures larger at this time of the year. At the same time there was a small but welcome fall of 3,000 in the seasonally adjusted figure for adult unemployment.

Of course, no sooner have the figures been announced than opposition parties, in what has now become akin to a ritual, declare that the official unemployment figure hides the whole truth, and that the true figure is anything up to 2 million higher. But is there any reality in this picture of 4 to 5 million people, or even more officially and unofficially unemployed?

Exactly what are the "unemployment figures"? The 3.3 million is above all a claimant count, a record of the number of people who claim unemployment benefit, supplementary benefit and national insurance credits. The count includes many who are severely disabled but excludes students seeking holiday work, those with claims temporarily stopped and, for the last two years or so, most men over 60 who no longer have to sign on.

That is not the only way of counting the unemployed. Once a year information is gathered on a sample of households in the Labour Force Survey. Unemployment is defined in this survey simply by whether any individual is without the job and is actively seeking work in the week of the survey. Interviewing

for the 1984 survey took place between March and May last year in a sample of no less than 57,000 households. First results were published in my department's *Employment Gazette* at the end of May. Some further analysis will appear in the *Gazette* at the end of this month.

What this survey reveals should make us stop and think. It shows us that there are many people, not covered by the claimant count, who are looking for work. But it also shows that there is a large number, amounting to close to a third of those on the unemployment register, who either had a job or were not seeking work during the period of the survey.

The survey shows that there about 870,000 people not included in the monthly claimant count who are looking for work. Who are they? Generally they are supported by other members of their family - and this is often the reason why they are not entitled to benefit and so do not appear on the register. Moreover, many of these 870,000 women and 250,000 men do not fit our stereotype image of the unemployed. Over half the women were specifically seeking part-time work and nearly three quarters of them are married. Nevertheless they are certainly there to take up vacancies as and when they occur - and they do.

But we cannot just add 870,000 to the claimant count each month and call that the total number of the unemployed. For within the claimant count itself the Labour Force

Survey reveals that some 940,000 people, nearly a third, either had a job or were not looking for work during the period of the survey. Here the men well outnumber the women, by 560,000 to 380,000, and in the manner in which this total is made up is worth investigating.

When we look we find the surprising admission that some 200,000 of those recorded as claiming benefit said they had a paid job. Is this the so-called invisible economy finally seeing the light of day? I do not know, and neither does anyone else, but I would be slightly surprised if everyone who was working at the same time as claiming benefit admitted to it in a survey.

But when we look into the remaining 740,000 counted as unemployed we find some more facts of interest. Some 30,000 are women, of whom just over half said that they were engaged in looking for work, with another 10 per cent saying that they either did not want employment or considered themselves retired. There are some 140,000 single parents with children under 16, two thirds of whom were not looking for work. Fair enough, for who would say that bringing up a child is not hard work, but can we call them unemployed?

And when we look at the men in this group over a third said that they did not believe that there were any jobs available. I can understand the pessimism, particularly in areas of high unemployment. But, in addition to this group, over a quarter said that they either

considered themselves retired, neither wanted nor needed employment or once again were looking after the home. All that too is understandable. But again are they unemployed? And when we see that in addition over one fifth of men in this group are long-term sick or disabled we realize that the position is by no means simple.

All this is not an excuse for the unemployment figures. We must continue to devote our efforts to reducing unemployment by creating the conditions in which the number of jobs will continue to increase. But just as the fact that by far the greatest number of long-term unemployed live in the country live in the South-east alongside the very employers who say that they cannot get people, so these figures also illustrate that we must not view the published unemployment total each month in the kind of simplistic terms so beloved of the headline writers.

In particular, the Labour Force Survey demonstrates that it is absurd simply to take the official unemployment total and add a million or two, as certain commentators have tended to do. Yes, there are people outside the count both looking for work and taking jobs in large numbers, but there are also within the count many - almost a million - who are either in paid employment or not seeking work at all.

Just as unemployment itself will not be solved by a single, simplistic solution, so too do we need to recognize that the unemployment total itself merits much closer analysis.

Lord Young of Gifford is Secretary of State for Employment.

Simon Heffer on John Gummer's lesser-known legacy to Norman Tebbit



Big brother tugs at the Tory grass roots

Britain are divided by the party for organizational purposes into 11 areas and Scotland. Special attention was given this year to area agents, whose salaries were increased by considerably more than Central Office's 3 per cent. They now earn an average of £15-20,000 per year for what they say is about a 70-hour week.

Constituency agents are financed by the constituency party and where even a shared one cannot be afforded the constituency party chairman often has to act as agent at election time. Young agents start on £6,000 a year, more in London, although older candidates who pass through the 15-18 month training period are better paid.

Gummer was not an agent's favourite - but it is an eternal truth of Tory politics that the agents are discontented. Central Office advertises for agents twice yearly: according to more discontented incumbents 2,000 reply, on average, to each advertisement, but only 60 still profess an interest once the terms and conditions of service are discovered. A recent agents' meeting - held after the top salaries debacle and addressed by the yet-to-be appointed deputy chairman Jeffrey Archer - was said to be one of the worst-tempered on record. But the 42 agents currently in training are seen as a healthy sign of the influence of the constituencies.

There is a movement for a system of fewer but higher paid agents, perhaps based on the Euro-constituencies. It is argued that the training - a preliminary exam and a six-month "apprenticeship" to an agent - is wasteful and too heavily based on the learning of election law by rote. But Gummer resisted these changes strongly. Tebbit will make his own mind up, but the existing system will at least fight the next election.

Tebbit's financial inheritance is not, on the surface, very cheerful, and there are growing calls for better accounts to be presented. But the Tory Party is rarely short of funds when it really needs them. The return to active fundraising of party

Gummer's conference handbook smile (left), Tebbit, and Jessica Bromley: reform needs more support from the centre

politically aware, coupled with the need to make more money, is easily stomachable by those hoping for a political revival. But some agents accuse the party of not recognising that the new campaigning policies will turn off many amateur loyalists.

In Braintree, seat of social security minister Tony Newton, the association social secretary Anna Lister emphasises that the party must not take for granted activists' capacity to raise funds and give time to the cause.

Boosting political at the expense of social activity could be counterproductive. "Morale is not high. Pressure is being put on by the area office, with the treasurer coming round telling us we must keep raising more money," says Mrs Lister.

"I think we should know more about Central Office," she adds. "They want all this money, yet we aren't given specific information about what it's for."

Peter Luff, a prospective parliamentary candidate and Battersea constituency vice-chairman, who is by profession a public relations executive, criticises the constituencies' traditional step at times of local elections of holding conference motions asking for policies to be better presented. The failure of presentation, he claims, is often the fault of the associations themselves. But this summer, for the first time, Central Office sent MPs off with a briefing pack to help alleviate local worries on national issues.

There is understandable scepticism about the Gummer reforms. Some agents and constituency chairmen, for example, deny knowledge of the constituency number. This may be because of Central Office secrecy or because in some sensitive areas it is conducted by Central Office employees rather than by local associations. It may also, however, be because the efficient nationwide coverage that zealous claim for it has not been achieved.

Yet according to Hal Miller, the Bromsgrove MP and vice-chairman in charge of organization, the new chairman is a lucky man, "taking over a machine that has been rebuilt, reconstructed and re-directed, with advanced plans already formulated for the conduct of the next general election." Truth, or Tory truth? The faithful in Blackpool hope that at least some of the votes of thanks to Gummer this week will turn out to be well deserved.

Wogan and others are on first name terms with archbishops even as they meet them for the first time.

That is why we say "Cheers" when we mean "Thank you" and now even when we mean "Sorry". "Sorry" and "Thank you" are deemed to sound stuffy and patrician.

Let us not fuss too much about the vogue valedictory phrase, "Take care". Like most vogue phrases it will soon become a laughing-stock and die of shame. It is not really very different from such old phrases for saying goodbye as "goodbye", "farewell", "adieu", and the Latin valed. Remember the haunting, sobbing line of farewell, full of elisions, from Catullus:

Atque in perpetuum frater ave atque vale.

Come to think of it, it is no odder than the private idiom favoured by some of us, "Go well".

John O'Sullivan

Pride is back - by popular demand

New York

One afternoon recently I was watching television when an old Korda movie in praise of the British empire popped up. Entitled *Drums*, it depicted an uprising on the North-west frontier led by a politico-religious leader, brilliantly played by Raymond Massey. This "mad mullah" was shown in the film to be shrewd, resourceful, courageous (though also treacherous) and intelligent.

He was allowed by the script to express his anti-imperialism very forcefully, but the film also made quite clear that his victory would be a defeat for civilization, for the rule of law, and for economic progress - all of them ably represented by the British Army. This a film made years ago offered a very accurate prediction and analysis of the Ayatollah Khomeini's rule 40 years later.

The film's climactic scene is a full-dress dinner party in the besieged fort on the eve of battle. It concludes with an eloquent toast to the colonel's young wife, the ravishingly pretty Valerie Hobson, and all the other women of empire, for bringing a soft feminine grace to the hard task of defending civilization.

This splendid scene was based upon the principle, that other things being equal, our side is right. It is perhaps a natural tendency of human nature to be patriotic, xenophobic, even tribal. Until recently this used to be reflected in films, thrillers and the popular press. Not so today.

Compare *Drums* with the post-Vietnam films such as *Under Fire*, dealing with the heir of the British empire, "US imperialism". Does America in these films represent civilization, the rule of law and economic progress? No, it represents barbarism. It promotes the corruption of local cultures, which in their simplicity are presented as spiritually superior to American culture, and it directs aggression against peaceful peoples. The conventional justification of American intervention, namely communism, is either not mentioned, depicted as a mild heresy of nationalism, or even celebrated as a just idealism.

Or take the spy thriller. Its great inventor was John Buchan, who leaves no doubt about which side he is on. The Germans and Bolsheviks may be brave and resourceful but they are plainly in the wrong, probably wicked, and lacking in chivalry. The British represent superior virtue.

John Le Carré is another matter. One truth shines forth amid the encircling gloom - that the two sides, the circus and Moscow centre (or is it the centre and Moscow circus?) are fundamentally alike. What determines the character of the intelligence organizations of East and West is not the different philosophies of the two societies, but the similar techniques and technologies of the espionage business: lying, trickery, deceit, betrayal and manipulation. This is a reflection in



Rambo: brutal but patriotic

popular culture of Galbraith's theory of convergence in economics.

Popular culture, in other words, has been invaded by what Jean Kirkpatrick calls "moral equivalence" - the notion that there is no real difference between our side and theirs, between East and West. This invasion may be more significant than at first appears. Popular culture, after all, is one important way in which national myths and loyalties are transmitted. These feelings are the cement of society and make social cooperation possible and natural.

Of course, education consists very largely of discovering that national myths are not wholly accurate. But we must learn loyalty before we learn scepticism. If we begin by feeling that there's nothing particularly special about ourselves, we will have lost one foundation of national cohesion. And given the character of western societies, that would mean the erosion of what are liberal and democratic values as well as purely patriotic ones.

But there are some comforting signs that moral equivalence and popular culture go ill together. First, there has been a reaction to the post-Vietnam anti-imperialism in Hollywood. Films stressing martial virtues and patriotic sentiments, such as *Missing in Action* and *Rambo*, have recently enjoyed great success despite critical denunciation. They are generally unsophisticated politically and sometimes allied to a brutalist view of life and conflict which tends to discredit the patriotic virtues for the sensitive. But their extraordinary popularity testifies to a widespread, if frustrated, desire for films with the message of *Drums*.

Secondly, the audience always has the power to misunderstand creatively. Alf Garnett supposedly represented prejudice, his son-in-law enlightenment. But the audience saw that Alf's prejudices were at least his own (and, by extension, their own) prejudices, whereas his son-in-law was merely the ventriloquist's dummy for some pious teacher of civics.

Finally, moral equivalence may sometimes represent an advance towards national feeling and loyalty. For it is embraced most ardently by people who would once have thought the Soviet Union downright superior.

Philip Norman

Funny side of the street

The luckier Bowery dwellers can scrape up enough small change to buy a washcloth and window-cleaning aerosol. As cars stop at the lights on Grand Street, they receive an unsolicited windshield valeting. Though most keep their windows firmly wound, an arm will droop out occasionally with a quarter. Any semblance of work seems preferable to straight begging. There is a man out every day among the traffic, wiping windshields with the backs of his bare hands.

The Bowery's dwellers seem anything but menacing. Many of them, indeed, can hardly stand. By noon each day, it is as if some premature holocaust has flung their bundled, inert forms all around, in factory doorways and outside busy banks. One young black man lies among the pedestrians, next to his overturned wheelchair. I pass by on assignment, in kindred cities like Calcutta. But I cannot help noticing the bare ankles of a figure, collapsed beside a fancy Italian lampshade store. The skin has the colour and texture of thick dark grey velvet.

Like everything else in New York, derelict men keep to their allotted zones. You find them at the junction of Bowery with Grand, Hester or Houston, but seldom even a block to the east or west. They collect in the lee of the old Court House building on Lafayette street, lying in an open air dormitory of fruitboxes and garbage. From time to time, the police come along and rustle them out in the playful spirit of a hayfield con-hunt.

Destitution levels the races. Everyone has the same scorched-black skin and slow, lurching, slave-manacled walk. Not all, however, wear the uniform of burned-out rags. Some have acquired bizarre outfits, cast off from fortunate lives - Palm Beach plaid coats and pastel flared trousers, high fashion 15 years ago, or baseball caps and sweatshirts inscribed "Yale" or "Boston Yacht Club". Age is likewise obliterated. You can tell young from old only by the occasional patriarchal white beard.

Among their better-off neighbours, the Chinese show their most compassion. The Peking Dampening House on Hester Street provides a free tea urn and gives away 10 meals each Sunday. Early in the morning, lines of refugees from the flophouse hotels sit outside the Chinese coffee shops, each with a steaming paper cup and a doughnut or Danish.

Today I saw a Chinese shopkeeper, Every one has the same scorched-black skin and slow, lurching, slave-manacled walk. Not all, however, wear the uniform of burned-out rags. Some have acquired bizarre outfits, cast off from fortunate lives - Palm Beach plaid coats and pastel flared trousers, high fashion 15 years ago, or baseball caps and sweatshirts inscribed "Yale" or "Boston Yacht Club". Age is likewise obliterated. You can tell young from old only by the occasional patriarchal white beard.

As I return to 98 Bowery, I find a man in a green baseball cap sitting on the narrow front doorstep. He gets up with such politeness, it is contagious.

"I'll just disturb you a moment," I say.

He grins and says, "You gotta be Irish."

"Almost," he says, and draws himself up in visible pride.

"Frank David O'Flann."

The months of sub-zero temperatures - when men will still go about half-naked - seem far away. There is good humour even among the windshield cleaners on Grand Street. The other day, a blue Impala stopped there, driven by a lone girl. As the windshield was zoned in, she looked terrified and buzzed her automatic window shut. The men laughed and sprayed aerosol hearts all over the glass in front of her.

More reports from the Bowery will follow

مكتبات العامة



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

AND SO TO BLACKPOOL

The loudest noise at this week's party conference was that of militants and miners attacking Mr Neil Kinnock. The loudest noise at next week's conference is likely to be that of Mr Norman Tebbit attacking Mr Neil Kinnock.

The Labour leader has moved himself centre-stage - to the palpable relief of large sections of the Conservative Party which is beginning to gather at Blackpool. The Tories know that there are hours of oratorical fun in the late conversion on the road to Orreave; in the man who stayed doggo while the grape-shot flew and only came to the front once the shooting had stopped.

Almost everyone wants to believe that Mr Kinnock really did make an historic speech at an historic conference. For the television commentators - the greys the heads, it seems, the shorter the memories - it is a return to the battle that they know and love. For Tory activists it is a return to the battle that they know they can win. Systematic assaults on Labour are, of course, at the core of any Conservative conference. Socialism is the nation's greatest enemy; socialism in disguise the greatest threat. But assaults on the old enemy are not enough to prepare the governing party for the task of staying for a third term in government. Before Labour's "historic" conference were gatherings of Liberals and Social Democrats that may yet prove to be more historic. And, while the Conservatives are well organised to attack Labour and what Mrs Thatcher once called "the enemy within" their preparedness to fight the other enemy within their very own political heartlands is much less certain.

The pre-conference soundings that the Prime Minister is receiving from her advisers are not all happy ones. There is deep scepticism about the economy. Even when Tory workers are

successfully briefed about sustained growth and the high level of job creation their first reaction is to express surprise - even disbelief. Increasing numbers of Tories now believe that the economy will deteriorate. More than one third of Tories believe that unemployment will continue to rise and Lord Young's new tactic (see opposite page) of opening up the facts behind the figures to find those really looking for work, while crucial to true understanding of employment, has to be adopted for just that reason and not because there are easy votes in it.

Away from the economy, rates reform is a minefield. The schools are on strike and there is no coherent policy for education and training even when the classrooms are in use. The health service is not perceived to be "safe with us". For months the sole strategy has been of defence and damage-limitation.

In the past the Tory leadership has preferred to treat its Alliance opponents with contempt. There were once sound reasons for doing so. But they have passed. The polls cannot prudently be ignored. The party faithful need arguments to deploy on the ground and the leadership needs to offer weapons, in most cases more subtle weapons than the heavy field artillery that it successfully deploys against Labour.

The Conservatives need to take a hard look at their electoral appeal. The extraordinary domination of the Prime Minister's personality has made such analysis previously almost pointless. Thatcherism stood for curbing unions, law and order, strong defence, cuts in taxes spending and borrowing - all arranged in no particular order and all encased in a hard shell of unshakable resolution. But it should now be appreciated that, while the outer shell must remain intact to be credible, there may be a more particular

order in which the components of Thatcherism can be placed before the voters. For example, strike ballots and other trade union controls stand far above tax cuts which, if they are to be sold as stimulants to the economy, not handed out as rewards for good behaviour.

The Alliance is vulnerable for its high tax policies. Small Tory tax cuts may be unconvincing in themselves, either as rewards or stimuli but, compared to the Alliance alternative, they can be made to look more so. The Alliance is vulnerable in defence, even after the ducking and weaving between Torquay and Dundee. Most of all the Alliance is only an alliance by its own say so. Conservative opponents do not need to take it at its own description.

The alternative to a proper strategy for taking on the Alliance with existing policies is for the Prime Minister to come under even greater pressure from threatened MPs to change policies and meet the Alliance halfway on key issues. That alternative would make the government unworthy of re-election. Some of the MPs concerned are facing a real political battle for the first time in their lives. Their organisations, despite the gradual reforms described on the opposite page, are often unmatched to the task of a properly targeted and professionally managed campaign.

Conservative party activists need new lines of attack on the Alliance. But they also need a coherent and positive sense of what their party stands for, where it is going and why the voters should thus remain loyal to it. They need a show of strength from Mrs Thatcher's new Cabinet with which they can convince the sceptics that the party is no longer a one-woman band whose one-woman has no new tunes.

School rules for selection tests

From Mr A. J. Glead

Sir, An Essex County Council working group has quietly initiated a new automatic procedure for the allocation of pupils for selective secondary education.

It instructs head teachers that only (sic) three practice tests are allowed - no similar papers can be given, in or out of school hours; they must devote no more than one and a half school days per child per year to practice tests and diagnostic follow-up - i.e. about three hours per year will be spent on diagnostics; regular coaching in school or extra curricular, e.g. homework, is not allowed; parents should be discouraged from seeking additional teaching out of school hours.

The working group threaten that "if any school is found to have failed to observe the instructions... this could lead to the offending school's results being declared invalid".

Is this an indication of the malaise of our educational system? Are we right to leave education to the educationists when the very principle of learning is being denied? Essex appear to be pursuing a policy of pulling standards down to the lowest instead of up to the highest.

Are they alone in this attitude, for it appears that many parents and teachers have acquiesced in this change in policy since they believe that to object could prejudice the future of their children/pupils?

As an educational consumer who believes that education is the key to the successful future of Britain, I share their concern but wonder that this example of tyranny can be accepted so easily.

I would say to the Minister, therefore, gird up your loins, Sir Keith, here is a real educational issue that can be put right in short order.

Yours faithfully,
A. J. GLEAD,
The Post Office,
Tendring,
Clacton-on-Sea,
Essex.
October 3.

Tibet and China

From Mr James Gordon Mackie

Sir, I read the Chinese Ambassador's letter (September 20) on Tibet with interest.

On September 1 the Chinese celebrated Tibet's 20th anniversary as an "autonomous" region under Chinese rule. The Tibetans still owe their allegiance to the Dalai Lama, their God King in exile, and despite the efforts of the "Chinese" to "educate" them over the years, remain a very religious people.

The Chinese Ambassador admits that mistakes were made during the period of the cultural revolution, but now the leftist excesses have been rectified and since 1980 the Tibetans have been allowed their religious freedom. Accordingly, the Tibetans planned to celebrate their Festival of the Moon this year on September 1, the same date as the Chinese subsequently chose for their celebrations. Chinese newspaper reports on September 2 talked of Tibetans singing and dancing; however, it was not to celebrate Chinese autonomy. The Chinese papers made no reference to any Buddhist festival.

Key Chinese speeches emphasised freedom, the improvement of communications, and the opening up of Tibet to foreign friends (no longer devils) and the Chinese Ambassador in his letter refers to many foreign tourists going to Tibet for sightseeing.

While these speeches were being prepared, however, public transport for tourists in China was being shut down and China's foreign friends were being largely rounded up and flown out of the country.

For many Tibetans life under the old feudal theocracy was harsh and brutal: a struggle to stay alive. Today in Tibet nobody starves. The Chinese are investing money in the country and no doubt they will expect dividends to be paid. Tibet could not have continued in its splendid isolation. Marxist Chinese believe that China merely lent historical inevitability a hand. They are, I think, genuinely puzzled at the "ingratitude" of the Tibetans.

It is possible that some Tibetans are better off today than they would have been under the old regime, but are they happier? That is another question.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES MACKIE,
4 Chyngham Gardens,
Seaford, Sussex.

Diagnosis of Aids

From Professor J. E. Banatvala and others

Sir, We applaud the DHSS's decision to fund the regional blood transfusion service for screening blood donors for evidence of infection with the Aids-associated virus and provide some additional funding to health authorities for Aids-related services. However, as clinical virologists practising in London we feel strongly that to give the Public Health Laboratory Service (PHLS) total responsibility for conducting diagnostic tests is inappropriate.

Aids represents the greatest public-health problem we face. There is no effective treatment, and as yet no vaccine. Patients in such high-risk groups as homo-sexuals are already demanding diagnostic tests; prompt diagnosis followed by skilled counselling represents an important method of reducing virus transmission.

Recent reports emphasize the importance of a rapid diagnostic service for organ transplantation

Profit and loss in NHS management

From Dr A. N. Bamji

Sir, Having been initiated by the implication in two recent editorials (August 22 and September 27) that consultants were cheating the National Health Service out of vast sums of money due from private practice in NHS hospitals, I was not yet driven to write in complaint because the assertion seemed so absurd. I have changed my mind.

In my NHS consulting room is kept a trolley charged with drugs for local injection of corticosteroids into joints and soft tissues. When something is used it is replaced from the hospital pharmacy, being ordered up by my clinic aide.

When I began using the room to see occasional private patients, some of whom require such treatment, it occurred to me that the patients could be charged for the cost of the items used. For example, the cost of drugs used in the injection of a knee joint is about £6.

After three months of correspondence I have discovered that the regulations do not allow the health authority to levy any separate charge for drugs "administered during the course of the treatment or procedure for which the patient is attending".

The cost is supposedly covered by the standard room charge, but in my experience it is frequently much greater. Despite my efforts, therefore, I have to sit back and watch the health service cheat itself.

It is the elephant, Sir, that you should be lashing with your venomous tongue, not the poor bloody mahouts.

I remain, yours faithfully,
ANDREW BAMJI,
Queen Mary's Hospital,
Sidcup,
Kent.
September 27.

Inner-city rioting

From Mr Paul Stephenson

Sir, The recent events of inner-city rioting and looting in both Handsworth, Birmingham, and Brixton pose a major threat and challenge to the future social stability and fabric of post-war British society as we have known and understood it.

No major English city with a sizeable black ethnic population can afford to be complacent to the dangers and lessons to be learnt from such a threat - they do so at their peril.

Being black and born in England, I have over the past 12 years lived and worked among Brixton's black young people as founder/chairman of the Muhammad Ali Sports Development Association, and was a former vice-chairman of the board of governors of Tulse Hill School, Lambeth. I have observed over the past 30 years that the vast majority of white British people have no understanding of the deep psychological impact their racism has had on black British-born young people over the past two decades.

Britain's inner cities, with their poverty, bad housing and unemployment, are fast becoming

firmly established black English townships policed by insensitive, racist, hostile, heavy-handed white law officers.

The vast majority of Britain's blacks are trapped in the inner cities by an invisible wall of white racism that denies them equal job opportunities, promotion and jobs. They are daily faced with having to live in poor housing with no future hope or job prospects, leading lives of despair, frustration and hopelessness.

Many of Britain's black youths now identify with the aspirations and the struggle against racial oppression of the black revolutionary struggle across South Africa.

If England is to avoid the permanent establishment of black townships within its own cities as a feature of British society, then the Government and people of Britain must be jolted out of their complacency to the horrendous future it will face.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL STEPHENSON, Chairman,
Bristol West Indian Parents and Friends Association,
12 Downs Park East,
Westbury Park,
Bristol 1.

Yours faithfully,
PETER H. MILLARD,
St George's Hospital Medical School,
Cranmer Terrace,
Tooting, SW17.

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ON THIS DAY

OCTOBER 5 1786

In the first few years of The Times its proprietor/conductor was not averse to planting letters - space fillers - as an alternative to free advertisements. One suspects that the second of the two below may have originated in Printing House Square. The letter signed "A Friend..." refers to unseemly conduct by bailiffs.

To the Editor of the UNIVERSAL REGISTER

SIR,

GIVE me leave to present my sincere thanks to the Gentleman, whose letter in your paper of this day, is signed, "A Friend to the Constitution," and dated from "Hammersmith," which entitles him to the acknowledgments of all his fellow citizens. The British Constitution is a glorious fabric, but the best finished edifice ever erected, will become impaired if not constantly surveyed by a skilful artist, who shall have not only discernment to perceive the first symptoms of impair, but perseverance to represent the consequences it entails, in such a manner, and until such time as it shall be effectually repaired. "A Friend to the Constitution" is eminently well qualified for such a service; the defect he has pointed at is of a most alarming nature; it is a corner stone, let no pains be spared to keep it in its proper place. Let me entreat him to proceed in the praiseworthy undertaking, and every Englishman, every admirer of the English Constitution, should look up to him, as the sons and daughters of Humanity look up to a Hero.

It is much to be wished, Sir, that some means could be devised to suppress the trade of begging, so properly reprobated in one of your this day's paragraphs. It is a subject that demands the efforts of every good man, and every man to feel for the credit of his country to remove; for nothing can be so discreditable to a nation, as to see it swarming with professed beggars who are able to work, and train their children up to habits of indolence, and to a species of imposture, which though it fixes disgrace upon the people at large, is suffered visibly to increase every day. I hope to see its cure attempted by the prescriptions of some of your able writers; and am not only your constant reader, but an admirer of the excellent manner in which your paper is conducted.

3d October, 1786.

To the Editor of the UNIVERSAL REGISTER

SIR,

HAVING seen the description of the title Lady, in one of your papers, I take the liberty of sending you the derivation of some particular words whose origin is not generally known, though the words themselves are in a course of hourly application.

I am,
Your obedient humble servant,
A.N.Y.Z.

Baud - This word signified anciently no more than to bathe; and any person who bathed was called a Baud, or, as it was formerly spelt, Boud. Boudette is a very old word, whence is derived the compound word Bathing-Stews.

Drab - The dress remaining in the bottom of vessels, are, in the old Teutonic, called Drabbe, and is now applied to a low, vulgar, dirty woman. Vice is a term of reproach to an ill-tempered, violent woman; from Ficen, the ancient name of a She Fox; still more anciently written Fozin.

Queen - Originally signified a barren, Old Sow.

Rascal - Formerly meant an ill-conditioned, low Deg.

Thief - From Thie, the old word for Thirl.

King - From the Teutonic, Cunnung, a man singularly valiant.

Queen - From Queen; in the ancient Danish, Woman or Wife.

Earl - From the ancient word Earleth, of noble rank.

Lord - From the ancient word Lafor, from Laif-bread and lord, one who gave.

Lady - From Lady, bread-server.

Knight - From Cruht, in the ancient Teutonic, an Horseman.

Islands' income tax

From Mr P. W. Radice

Sir, With reference to your article of September 24 about a proposed debate on the Channel Islands, I am a contributor towards defence, your readers should be aware that a good deal of UK income tax is paid by residents in the islands.

All Crown pensions and other income arising in the UK from which tax is deducted at source are liable to UK tax. The operation of local double income tax relief means that the local income tax revenues forgo an equivalent amount of potential receipts. The taxpayers pay about the same as they would if they lived in the UK.

So far as Alderney is concerned (population about 2,000) the amount forgone is relatively considerable, as the proportion of UK pensioners living here is high. The island has nonetheless paid its way since the last war without any subsidy from any source and no debt.

Yours faithfully,
P. W. RADICE,
White Cottage,
Alderney,
Guernsey, CI.

Uneasy lies the head

From Mr Ronald Hamilton

Sir, There is attraction about Dr Rac's plan for the creation of ten top "National Schools" (report, October 2) though one doubts whether his distinguished predecessor, the great Dr Busby, who played with his boys for King Charles I "for an hour or two before his sacred head was struck off", would approve the re-naming of Westminster as "Cromwell College".

Yours faithfully,
RONALD HAMILTON,
Cherry Orchard Cottage,
Broad Campden,
Gloucestershire.
October 2.

BROAD POWERS FOR THE BROADS

"The coordinated management of water-space and its interface with the land": the vocabulary of environmentalism is not exactly evocative of one of the most special areas of the British Isles; but the point embedded in it is a sound one.

The Norfolk Broadland is a delicate environment of mixed values under pressure from competing interests. Its scenery delights the eye; it has, or had, an abundance of aquatic life, animal and plant; it is a haunt of birds, some rare; it is a pleasure place for sailing boats, now outnumbered ten to one by motor cruisers; the holiday traffic is an important source of wealth to the area; it is farmed both intensively and marginally; remnants of commercial navigation survive. The proposition has been argued, since 1945 at least, that these values and interests can best be held in balance to general advantage by an administrative structure that is comprehensive in extent and function.

Tentative steps have been taken in that direction from time to time against a background of woe about the reason for their necessity: erosion, conflict and decay; a biological desert; environmental degradation. The wonder is that a quarter of a million people are still attracted to the place for a water holiday.

The causes of so much concern are several, and they rise and fall in prominence. In the 1950s it was natural silting causing the beds of the meres to

reach or approach the crucial distance below the surface at which fen vegetation colonizes. In the 1970s it was the retreat of animal and plant life as a consequence of over-enrichment of the water with phosphates and nitrates from treated sewage and the application of farm fertilizers. In the 1980s it has been marsh drainage and the substitution of barley for cattle-grazing. All the time there is the hum of motor boats, their sporadic crowding, and the erosion of reedy margins by their wash.

The present Broadland Authority has done good work, but it is a joint committee of local authorities exercising only delegated powers, with insecurity of funding. It is generally agreed among those implicated that something firmer is required. With the Countryside Commission as midwife and Norfolk County Council as chief sponsor, a private Bill has been drafted for the establishment of a statutory authority to which planning and management powers would be transferred. Without being designated a national park, the Broadlands would be given equivalent status and funding.

Although water quality is the most important single factor in the conservation of the Broadland, the Anglian Water Authority, which is responsible for it, stands aside from these arrangements. It was judged to be bad in principle to divide the hydrological management of a river basin, and not practical politics to effect a statutory transfer of part

of the water authority's powers in part of its territory.

The Great Yarmouth Port and Haven Commissioners, who are in charge of navigation and "water-space management" on the Broadlands, have sought a similar exemption. Boating interests are well represented on that commission and they feel less at ease with a statutory authority where navigation would be only one among many of its responsibilities, and where they suspect excesses of conservation might be hatched. The Bill's sponsors correctly see that the omission of navigation would largely defeat the object of the measure.

The compromise now floated is that the Port and Haven Commissioners would continue to execute the works and controls of navigation but as agents of the new authority, which would determine the policies to be pursued. This has the backing of Mr William Waldegrave at the environment department, who made an earlier successful sally into the Broadlands when Halvergate marshes were at risk. He has asked the parties, with the help of his officials, to negotiate the details of the compromise so that the Bill may be presented to Parliament next month as an unopposed measure. (The life chances of private Bills that are opposed are not good.) A successful outcome would improve the prospect of conserving the Norfolk Broadland as a place of beauty, nature, recreation and prosperity, without too much loss of any.

TRAVEL

Youth on the slippery slope

Parents needn't fret about teenagers on skiing trips abroad. Cindy Selby reports

At the awkward age, there's nothing so belittling as a family holiday. There you are, with parents, when you're obviously quite old enough to be on your own - or better still, with other bright young things. For teenage skiers, however, there is a solution. A small company, Winter Adventure Holidays, runs ski trips for boys and girls aged 13 to 18. They can book independently or with a friend. The children get their taste of freedom; the parents their peace of mind - the brood being away from home but in safe hands.

There is a choice of three destinations, all in France. The company offer summer skiing in Tignes and winter sports in Châtel and Chamrousse. In each resort there are British "group leaders" - one to every 10 children. These leaders are cheerful types, often graduates; they speak French, hold First Aid qualifications and all are experienced skiers.

The children are divided according to skiing ability. During their daily two hours of lessons with a French instructor, the leader comes along too - translating where necessary and bringing up the rear. He then takes charge for a further four hours of skiing - varying the pace perhaps with slalom races or snowball fights. At Chamrousse, the leaders also organize the evening activities: swimming, skating, tobogganing and discos.

Chamrousse (above the Isère valley) was Winter Adventure's first destination. They have been coming here for six years and it's their most popular resort, with 50 miles of marked pistes and many more off the beaten track. Beginners quickly gain confidence and competence on the broad "green" runs; while advanced skiers can



Crash course: high jinks for newcomers to the ski slopes

career down the "blacks" - including those used for the 1968 Winter Olympics. Chamrousse also has good records both for snow and sunshine.

It does not, however, boast any wooden chalets or horse-drawn sleighs. Like so many modern French resorts, the "village" is a soulless arrangement of car parks and concrete blocks - the premises of hotels, apartments and (thankfully) a few colourful shops, cafés, bars and creperies.

Accommodation, like the architecture, is basic. The company takes over the three hotels for the season and in one of these, Le Refuge, there is only one shower for every 15 guests. All the hotels are plainly furnished and there may be up to eight children sharing a room, sleeping in bunks. Yet the teenagers I spoke to seemed quite immune to the discomfort. It was all such fun - dormitories, pillow fights, ghost stories and the like.

The food, too, met with unqualified approval. At Hotel Les Marmottes, for instance, a lunch of soup, chicken and patin dauphinois followed by ice-cream was deemed delicious, filling and "not too healthy or foreign".

It was served with characteristic panache by the genial patron, Dédé André. He likes his young customers, finding them generally polite and

friendly. Their only fault, according to Dédé, is their untidiness - the "anarchy" they wreak in every bedroom.

There has been only one really bad lot out from Britain. The company also takes school parties and one of these, from a well-known Catholic establishment, spent the whole week drinking (illegally), vomiting and cursing the unfortunate group leaders who had to clear up after them. The teachers merely looked on vacantly or slouched off to yet another bar.

But such behaviour is exceptional. The more common problems are nervous children, spoilt brats and braggarts.

One group leader, Trina, recalled the south London punk who arrived on the slopes wearing leather trousers, tightly chained from leg to leg. Trina casually suggested he might find the snow-ploughs easier if he abandoned the bondage. He duly did so and made giant strides.

Yet everyone on these holidays makes fast progress - skiing as they do through all the daylight hours and for seven days rather than the usual six. The aim is maximum skiing at minimum cost.

TRAVEL NOTES

A nine-day holiday - with seven days of skiing at Chamrousse - costs £285 a person. The price includes full board, lift pass, ski hire, supervision, insurance and travel. The company will also arrange hotel or self-catering holidays for families and school parties. For more information contact Winter Adventure Holidays, 37-39 Corn Street, Witney, Oxon OX28 7BW. (0983 76944).

Buried treasure and tales of the riverbank

Mudlarks are flourishing along the Thames. Armed with metal detectors and £9 permits, they trudge over the river banks at low tide in search of hidden treasure. Last year one enthusiast uncovered a 15th-century silver necklace worth £20,000.

The practice dates back to the time of Henry VIII, but the heyday of the mudlarks was the Victorian era. The practice then dwindled until the arrival of metal detectors. Now there is a Society of Thames Mudlarks, founded four years ago, whose 60 members have special digging rights.

It was a Victorian labourer, Henry Briggs, who made one of the best-known discoveries, the Iron Age Battersea Shield. He is thought to have dredged it up from the river bed near the then newly-constructed Chelsea Bridge, selling it to the British Museum in 1837 for £40. It was one of more than 40 such sales; Mr Briggs's 20 years on the riverbanks made him a handsome living.

The museum was not so lucky with an unnamed Victorian who, while strolling along the river in 1898, spotted an Iron Age dagger. He tried to pull the ancient blade from its bronze sheath, but the ivory or bone hit snapped off and he threw it back into the Thames in disgust. Although the remaining parts of the dagger were eventually acquired by the

museum, this would have been the only complete Iron Age dagger in its collection.

In more recent years the treasure hunters have not confined themselves to the river banks. In 1963 the archaeological section of the British Sub-Aqua Club found more than one hundredweight of Roman pottery, a 15th-century brooch, and enough old iron stoves and bicycle frames to open a junkyard. One diver said at the time: "If you threw everything out of all the shops in Hounslow High Street into the river, then covered it with 15ft of sewage that's what the river is like underwater."

Diving still has a limited appeal in upper reaches of the river beyond Teddington. When the summer's algae growth has cleared and the flood waters that muddy the bottom have receded, visibility can reach seven feet.

It was in conditions like this in 1982 that Ken Crosby, of the Slough Sub-Aqua Club, found a gold, enamel and diamond locket near Windsor Bridge. It has tentatively been identified as part of a scimitar sword scabbard presented to Lord Nelson by the Sultan of Turkey after the Battle of the Nile in 1798. It is still on loan to the National Maritime Museum.

Divers have less luck east of London. David Robertson, of the British Sub-Aqua Club, said: "East of Teddington lock, the



Holey grail: a mudlark digging along the Thames

tidal waters and heavy traffic make the river a dangerous place for divers. And Peter Cope, from the Aquatic Centre at Greenwich, said there was "zero visibility" and soft oozy mud.

The mudlark isn't always hunting treasure. Some go down to the river just for the sheer pleasure of the chase. One memorable day in 1944 the Thames at Richmond was at its

lowest for years and the sluice gates at Richmond lock were opened so the lock and bridge could be inspected. As a result, a 30ft shore was exposed on both sides of the river. Countless items were uncovered: pocket knives, wristwatches, cut-throat razors, cigarette lighters and bangles.

But it is the more valuable discoveries that keep up the interest. As far back as 1467 a

DIGGING AROUND

Museum of London, 150 London Wall, London EC2 (01-600 3699). British Museum, Great Russell Street, WC1 (01-636 1555). National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, SE10 (01-858 4422). Museum and Art Gallery, Blagrove Street, Reading, Berks (0734 55911).

PLA permits from: The Director of Port Services, Port of London Authority, Thames House, St Andrew's Road, Tilbury, Essex RM18 7JH.

shoemaker on the river, not far from the present Kew Bridge, found a Bronze Age torc (an ornamental neck-ring). According to the Court Roll of the manor of Isleworth, translated from the Latin by Joanna Manning of the Museum of London, it weighed the equivalent of 20 medieval silver shillings, one modern pound weight. As the land was then owned by the Syon Abbey, the torc was presented to the Abbey.

If you want the chance to have the same good fortune, first apply for a £9 permit from the Port of London Authority (PLA), entitling you to search the foreshore from Teddington down to the Thames Barrier. The PLA, which issues about 100 permits a year, specifically asks that no deep holes be dug in the mud since they might endanger pedestrians.

Members of the Society of Thames Mudlarks, however, are permitted to dig the historically rich foreshore by the City of London. The PLA also asks that any finds be reported to the Museum of London, which houses the finds along with the British Museum, the National Maritime Museum and the Museum and Art Gallery, Blagrove Street, Reading.

Sara Driver

OUTINGS

PUNCH AND JUDY FELLOWSHIP FESTIVAL: A day of traditional entertainment, with "Professor" Percy Press, Guignol from France and Don Cristobal from Spain. Colston House, Colston Street, Bristol. Further information from Percy Press (01-802 4656). Tomorrow 10.30am-5pm. Free.

BRISTOL FESTIVAL FOR CHILDREN: Numerous activities from a film festival, theatre and book fair to body-popping and chess work-shops. City of Bristol, Mon-Oct 27. For further information and details ring the Festival Office, Colston House, Colston Street (0272 276483).

HORSE OF THE YEAR SHOW: Show jumping, Pony Club games, heavy horse musical drives, and special displays by Morgan horses. Grand parade on Mon of seven European and world medal teams in show jumping, three-day eventing, carriage driving and long-distance riding. Wembley Arena, Empire Way, Middx (01-902 1234). Mon-Oct 12. Evenings 7pm, matinees 12.15pm. Tickets £3-14.

THE TENT: HOME, SHELTER & A WAY OF LIFE: An exhibition with furnished tents from all over the world, including a Blackfoot tepee,

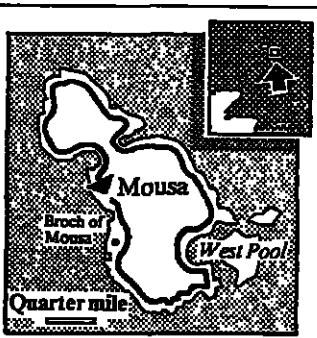
Alan Franks

WEEKLY WALKS
SHEPHERD: 3.5 miles

This is a rare walk because it begins with a boat ride. The utterly deserted island of Mousa lies a mile across the water from the east coast of Shetland. From there it is a little dot of a place, just four miles around, with a couple of beguiling ruins, the 2,000-year-old one still in far better fettle than the 200-year-old one. To reach Mousa visitors should telephone the boatman, Tom Jamieson, on Sandwick 367 to arrange a mutually convenient time for the crossing.

Walking on the island is less an end in itself than a means of embracing the character of a region. It has the added rationale of taking in a near-perfect gem of Pictish buildings, the 40-foot broch or defensive settlement.

It is as vivid of cement as a Cambrian field wall, and the only evidence of erosion is the human pillaging of stones from the upper layers. It is enough to upstage most walks, but do not linger too long or the boat



might be tempted to leave without you. Just carry straight on past the broch and follow the coastline round in an anti-clockwise direction. It's marvellous walking country - springy, unenclosed, thick with storm petrels and rock doves, and a large breeding colony of Arctic terns.

There is also a community of friendly, extrovert seals in the tidal pool on the eastern side of the island, and everywhere to the west, the spectacular array of 100 islands with their total of more than 2,000 miles of coast. I intend to return if not in person, then at least in print.

Alan Franks

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SHOPPING

By Beryl Downing

Fired with enthusiasm

Is it better to invest in tradition or gamble on novelty? That teasing dilemma facing the would-be supporter of contemporary British crafts is highlighted in two contrasting exhibitions which open in the next ten days.

At Peter Dingley's gallery in Stratford-upon-Avon a selection of recent work by David and John Leach represents all that is classic in stoneware and porcelain - superbly satisfying shapes - crafted with the knowledge that comes from a lifetime's experience and inherited talent from Bernard Leach, the founding father of modern British pottery.

At the Chelsea Crafts Fair will be a striking collection of architectural pots, curious sculptures and strange, flattened jugs and teapots by young potters experimenting with new ways of looking at conventional objects.

There is no harm in a little speculative craft buying, as long as you believe the object is beautiful otherwise coffee futures would be a more sensible buy. But as there are about 70 potters in every 100 craftsmen, a discerning eye is essential. This is precisely what you gain by proxy at Peter Dingley's. With 20 years' experience of pots and potters, and a strict rule that he will have nothing in his shop or gallery he does not like, you can be sure of quality whatever the price.

It has taken nearly 18 months to prepare the Leach exhibition, which opens on Monday. David and John both supplied 100 pots of which 45 each were chosen - the *crème de la crème*, at the age of 74, is now producing his best work, just as his father Bernard did in his later years. He is equally sure that one day David will be as highly regarded as a potter, if not as a philosopher.

He is already famous for his fluted celadon bowls, for his temmoku vases (black glazed with the brown glaze breaking through) and for the Japanese style acquired from a childhood in Tokyo and from being apprenticed to his father's pottery before setting up on his own in 1955.

John, the eldest of David's three sons, continued the family tradition by serving an apprenticeship in his father's pottery. He opened his own workshop in 1964, concentrating on brown domestic pots - jugs, casseroles, serving dishes - inexpensive, but beautifully made. Now he is creating similar shapes as one-offs - flasks and vases with the special texture that comes from wood-fired clay and some with "pepper and salt" effects of grey and white and grey cloud effects drifting across sooty black pots.

An hour's talk with Peter Dingley is like a short course in ceramic appreciation, although he disapproved when I asked him to tell me how to "understand" pots.

"If you get too involved in the technique the mind gets drawn away from whether a pot is likeable or not. Sometimes a thing that is not meant to have happened - a glaze slipping, a slightly ovoid shape - can give a pot a human quality and charm, like a girl with an upturned nose."



All the elements of the current controversy over style are clearly visible in examples of classic and experimental pottery due to go on show at Peter Dingley's and the Chelsea Crafts Fair.

Above: porcelain vase with black temmoku glaze, 14in high (£200); bowl, 14in diameter (£175); porcelain bowl, 5 1/2in diameter (£40) - all by David Leach; brown wood fired pot, 8 1/2in high (£50) and flask 12in high (£70) by John Leach. All at Peter Dingley.

Left: Gull 1, 18in high earthenware sculpture by Gordon Baldwin (£300) on the British Crafts Centre stands 42 and 43 at the Chelsea Crafts Fair. Right: flattened teapot in red, blue, white and yellow (£250), from a collection of new work by Linda Gunn-Russell, on the Anatol Orient stands 31 and 32 at Chelsea.

Chelsea Crafts Fair is at Chelsea Old Town Hall, King's Road, London SW3 on October 16, 17, 18 from 10am to 5pm and October 19, 20, 22 from 10am to 5pm. Stoneware and Porcelain by David and John Leach is at the Peter Dingley Gallery, 3 Chapel Street, Stratford-upon-Avon from Mon to Nov 2, Mon-Sat 9.30am-5.30pm, (closed Thurs afternoon). The potters' potters, Clarice Cliff, Susie Cooper and Charlotte Rhead, are the subjects of a Channel 4 series of *Programme and Pottery Ladies* which begins on October 17 at 11pm.

"The real professional always aims at 100 per cent perfection - a built-in mistake always looks contrived - but when a slip occurs it is a question of degree, of how much any particular piece will stand. A slight imperfection is endearing. Too much and the piece has to be destroyed."

Dingley's view is that a pot should be a vessel. He is wary of other ceramic forms - pictures and sculptures - unless their creators are primarily artists and sculptors who happen to be working with clay, rather than "potters who are fed up with making teapots."

"Novelty shapes may give temporary delight, but it is very dubious that they will give permanent delight, which is what a work of merit should do."

Those who agree with this view will find some of the exhibits at this year's Chelsea Crafts Fair startling, if not outrageous. There are 22 pottery exhibitors, some individuals, some supported by subsidized and independent galleries. The British Crafts Centre, the V&A Crafts shop, Aspects, Anatol, Orient are showing some of their favourites and the Crafts Council is encouraging 11 young craftspeople, including three potters, to take part by paying half their stall fees.

Among the most remarkable are sculptures by Gordon Baldwin and Christie Brown. Flattened teapots and jugs by Linda Gunn-Russell and Liz Beckenham, huge garden pots of classic shapes but unusual black and rust finish by Jennifer Jones. There are

graceful and traditional shapes, too, by Judith Trim and handsome architectural pots by David Roberts.

Lady Philippa Powell, the fair's organizer, is amazed but undeterred by the hate waves aroused by some of the stranger shapes. "People are quite violent in their reactions and experimental potters are attacked with as much antagonism as Impressionist and Cubist painters used to be."

And what of price? At Chelsea there will be pieces from £3 to £1,000 and at the Dingley Gallery David Leach's work is from £44 to £440 and John Leach's from £40 to £230.

Without doubt you will get good value from whichever craftsman you choose. So go for the style which appeals to you most.

Clocking up a double century...

As our bicentenary year enters its last few months, there could hardly be a more appropriate way of marking time than with a commemorative clock; and the one that has been produced for the occasion is no ordinary chronometer. Its face is set in a full-size page of *The Times*. Moreover, everyone involved in the clock's production is a craftsman. The movement is by Thwaites and Reed, who have made many of the major turret clocks in London, including the one over Westminster Abbey. The bell comes from the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, which cast Big Ben. Established in the 16th century, they asked: "Is that all?" when they heard we were celebrating a bicentenary.

But, more than anything else, this clock is a labour of love. It is the brainchild of William Stone and Stephen Martin, who have devoted three years to its creation, perfecting four prototypes on William's kitchen table before setting out to find the right workshops which could produce the standard they required.

Because William comes from a family of printers, he was particularly keen that the clock face should be set in a genuine page of *The Times*, printed by letterpress - probably the last ever to be hand-set, since the paper is now produced by computerized setting.

The sample page has been written and edited by staff at *The Times* and the result is a page of history and prediction, mentioning the past, present and future of the paper, including the possibility of satellite transmission in the future. There are also references to 500 years of letterpress printing and quotes (not always complimentary) about *The Times* by Queen Victoria, Churchill and Marconi. There is the indispensable front page cartoon by Calman and the no less indispensable front page advertisement - in this case by Garrard. There is even the statutory spelling mistake - no prizes for spotting it.

The surround for the clock is made in Brazilian mahogany with custom-made brasswork, including



Chimes of The Times: a labour of love to celebrate the bicentenary

ing the picture light. A special tool was made for the brass trim inside the frame because existing commercial trims were not up to William's exacting demands. The movement can be seen through bevelled glass doors at the back. All this effort and handwork costs money, of course, so the clock will have a rather rarified clientele who have the right setting for £2,760-worth of time on their hands - a bank, or perhaps a board room, or the ranch of a real-life Dallas tycoon for whom every second means another million barrels of oil.

Each clock will be specially made to order and will take about eight to 12 weeks. Within the London area William and Stephen will make personal visits to advise on installation; colour photographs are available for prospective buyers. Write to the Museum Fine Art, PO Box 85, The Times, London WC1X 8EZ or telephone 01-485-8783.

... and a tome of vintage cricket

From time to time - a bicentenary publication which would make a superb present or self-indulgent treat: *Double Century*, edited by Marcus Williams (Collins Willow, £17.50).

It is a weighty volume - it would be difficult to do justice to but the dog ran after the ball 200 years of cricket in a slim paperback - but both are light in spirit, thanks to the wit of the contributors and the compiler.

Marcus Williams, who has written on cricket for *The Times* since 1980, has selected items not only from the sports pages but from the leaders, news and features pages, law reports and personal columns and by contributors ranging from Neville Cardus to Donald Bradman.

Among them you will find Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's appreciation of W. G. Grace, a 1933 leading article on body-line bowling and the MCC's reply, and Lord Constantine's case against Imperial London Hotels for refusing to lodge him in 1944 when he was plain Mr Leare

Nicholas Constantine and "a man of colour".

A favourite story is of a "Novel Game of Cricket" in 1827 in which two gentlemen of Middlesex played Mr Francis Trumper and his sheepdog. Before the game the odds were five to one against Mr Trumper but the dog ran after the ball and returned it to his master at the wicket so speedily that the gentlemen found it difficult to make any runs and the odds

changed to four to one on Trumper.

There are many other strange stories including a report in the *Daily Universal Register* in 1785 of the antics of "the Lordling Cricketers who amused themselves in White Conduit Fields" and tried to drive passers-by from the footpath, pretending it was within their bounds. Probably the earliest reference to cricket hooliganism and certainly not cricket.

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DRINK Warm welcome to autumn

OCTOBER WINES

October is my favourite month. The vintage is in full swing throughout Europe, leaves turn from green to crimson and gold, and the first of those crisp, cold autumn days make a perfect excuse to open up a heart-warming autumnal red. However, this year's late Indian summer also calls for some full-bodied white wines to partner the last few warm days.

California is a good source of these full-flavoured white wines, for their higher alcohol levels and bigger, bouncier characters are especially comforting. Monticello Cellars is a relatively new Californian winery whose first crush, as the Americans term the vintage, took place in 1980, though it was not until 1982 that its 25-year-old winemaker Alan Phillips joined Monticello, and the winery and house was completed in the Napa Valley.

Monticello, as every American citizen knows, was Thomas Jefferson's home in Virginia.

Although I am not particularly smitten by the house, I am impressed with Monticello's wines. Alan Phillips, unlike most other Californian winemakers, has spent time in France and Germany studying the wines and this extra European polish shows.

Last year, for example, I was very taken with their '82 Gewürztraminer, which is not available over here, and his '82 Monticello Chardonnay, which is. The latter's pale gold colour and 13.3 per cent alcohol, backed up by an elegant restrained spiciness, more closely resembles a French Chardonnay than a Californian one. Costing just £7.85 a bottle

Monticello's '82 Chardonnay is an October snip. (Les Amis du Vin, 7 Ariel Way, Wood Lane, London W12.)

Australia also produces a wide range of full-bodied white wines and, at a recent tasting, I much enjoyed Thomas Hardy & Sons' 1983 Siegersdorf Rhine Riesling. It has been made from botrytis or noble rot-affected Keppoch grapes.

The wine has picked up an extra dimension of flavour from noble rot which, coupled with a lime-juice and petrol character on the palate makes it a classic example of the Rhine Riesling grape at its best. Priced at £4.95 and available for tasting throughout this month at H. Allen Smith, 24-25 Scala Street, London W1, it is an October white wine bargain buy. (Also at Wine Growers' Association, 1 Aldwych, London WC2, £5.49.)

Moving to red wines, Caves de la Madeleine has a good autumnal collection of which the '83 Cotes de Marmandais, a VDQS wine from the co-operative at Coudon, is very good value. Made from the Malbec, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc grapes, it is similar to Bordeaux, with a grassy bouquet and a ripe blackcurrant and redcurrant palate. (Caves de la Madeleine, 301 Fulham Road, London SW10 and Reimsen Wine Club, 28 Midland Road, London NW1, £2.85.)

Not dissimilar in style is a delightful red Gaillac, Les Carnes, from the Caves de Labastide de Levis co-operative. Made from the Gamay and Syrah grapes, among others, its pale garnet colour with a fresh, raspberry and redcurrant bouquet and taste makes it a very agreeable gulping wine. Perhaps the most satisfying aspect is its price: just £1.99 from Majestic Wine Warehouses.

We also need a comforting red wine that can bridge the gap between autumn and winter. Louis Jadot, founded in Beaune in 1859, is one of the most important and worthwhile of all the Burgundian negociant houses and I have always appreciated its clean-cut fruity style. The new 100 per cent red burgundy is called simply '83 Pinot Noir. With its pale garnet colour and vibrant strawberry and beetroot taste, it lives up to its name. (Milroy's, 3 Greek Street, London W1, £5.75).

Jane MacQuitty

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A legend reopens
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Oct 19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29
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A musical stage version of Victor
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The story is provided by the BBC
Nov 10. **BOOKING INTO 1986**

THE PIT - BARCLAY AT THE PIT From
7 Oct - a shock effect mix of sex &
politics. History & mystery. RSC also at
Mermaid

BATTERSEA PARK
Red 4.00/4.00 6.75/6.75
In the American Park.
Oct 19. **BOOKING INTO 1986**

ARCHERS
Featuring the BBC Radio play
Pete and Nat. From 24 Oct. Mats Sat
4.00. **BOOKING INTO 1986**

BLOOMSBURY T.M. Gordon St. WC1
Oct 19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29
Oct 19pm Mats 2.30 Sat 10am
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KIDS OF THE CROSS by
by Manuel Puig, with Simon Callow &
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the 1930s TRUPLANDS WITH
CRAIG FRANKLIN. THE LARGEST
THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE IN
THE COUNTRY. Every night Oct 14 on
PLAY IS A STUNNER. See later

هکزامین ۱۰۶۱۱

THE WEEK AHEAD



TELEVISION

FAIR COP: John Nettles returns as the Jersey detective in *Bergerac*, a series the BBC tried to kill but were forced to restore by popular demand. He has a new leading lady, played by Louise Jameson, and in the first episode finds himself in deadly combat with a Mafia hit squad. BBC1, Friday, 9.25-10.20pm.



THEATRE

SHAW FIRE: Joan Plowright plays the title role of the woman with a shady past in *Mrs Warren's Profession*, written by George Bernard Shaw in 1894 but banned from public performance until 1926. With Jessica Turner as her daughter and Robin Bailey, Lyttelton Theatre (01-928 2252). Opens Thursday after previews.



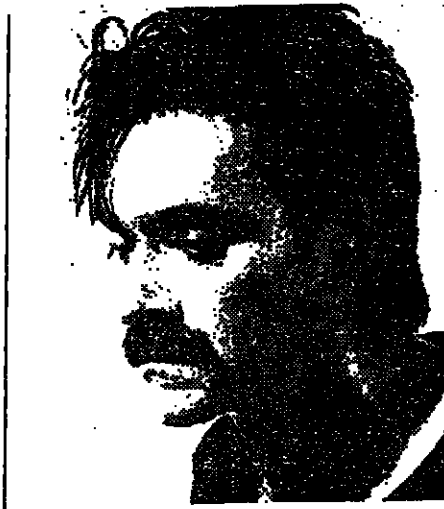
FILMS

NEW SCREEN: Jean-Luc Godard has been aggravating Catholic leaders all year with *Hail Mary* (18), his treatment of the biblical story of Mary and Joseph, played by Myriem Roussel and Thierry Rodé. It launches a new London cinema, the Metro, in the Trocadero complex, Piccadilly Circus (01-437 0757) on Friday.



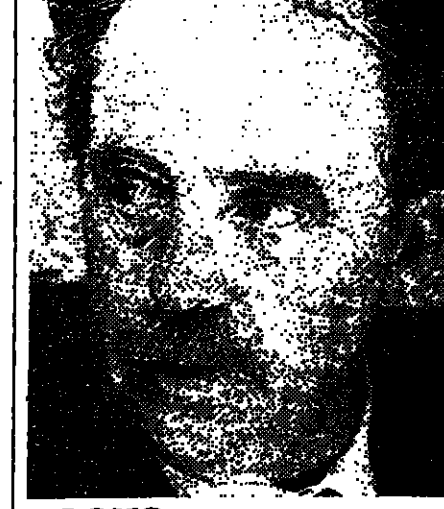
CONCERTS

CYCLE CLIPS: Antal Dorati, in his 80th year, conducts the Royal Philharmonic in the opening concert of its complete cycle of Beethoven symphonies and concertos. On Tuesday, the Triple Concerto with the Tortelier Trio; on Thursday Isaac Stern plays the Violin Concerto. Royal Festival Hall (01-928 3191).



DANCE

HOT SHOE: David Gordon is a hot property, with commissions from American Ballet Theatre, Paris Opera and Harlequin Dance Theatre. His Pick-Up Company, starring himself and Valda Setterfield, promises to be as unconventional as ever. Sadler's Wells (01-278 8916) from Wednesday.



BOOKS

LATE CALL: Heinrich Böll wrote *A Sailor's Legacy* in 1947, but only now is it appearing in English (Secker and Warburg, £8.95). Set in Russia and Normandy during the Second World War, it follows a young German soldier who realises that the real enemies are boredom and corruption within.

THE TIMES CHOICE

THEATRE

IN PREVIEW

DEVIL'S PEAK: "A white comedy" by Alan Liss in which three white South Africans confront their disintegrating society; directed by Brian Astbury. Croydon Warehouse Theatre, 62 Dingwall Road, Croydon (01-880 4060). Previews from Thurs. Opens Oct 15.

PHEDRA: Glenda Jackson in the title role of Robert David MacDonald's translation of Racine's classic tragedy, directed and designed by Philip Prowse. Aldwych (01-838 6404). Previews from Wed. Opens Oct 15.

OPENINGS

CRIMES IN HOT COUNTRIES: First of three new plays by Howard Barker to be presented in repertory. Bill Alexander and Nick Hamm direct the three plays, with RSC players. The Pit, Barbican (01-628 8795/638 8891). Previews Mon and Tues. Press night Wed.

INFIDELITIES: Jill Bennett in Sean Mathias's play, directed by Richard Olivier, in the final week of the Premier Pick of the Fringe season. Donmar Warehouse (01-240 8230). Opens Mon.

SPEND, SPEND, SPEND: The true story of a couple who won the football pools. Live music from a five-piece band. Directed by Chris Bond. Half Moon Theatre, London E1 (01-780 4000). Opens Fri.

SELECTED

THE ALCHEMIST: A vivid production of Jonson's comic masterpiece. Lyric, Hammersmith, London W6 (01-741 2311).

GIG: London stage debut of Lerner and Loewe's musical, with some additional songs. Lyric, London W1 (01-437 3686/434 1550).

PRAVDA: David Hare and Howard Brenton's near-the-knuckle account of the rise of a ruthless colonial newspaper magnate. Olivier (01-828 2252). Ethiopian Appeal Fund benefit tomorrow at 7pm.

OUT OF TOWN

EDINBURGH: The Nutcracker Suite: World premiere of a play by convicted murderer Jimmy Boyle and Andy Arnold. The early years of the Special Unit at Barlinnie Prison, set up to accommodate some of Scotland's toughest convicts. Royal Lyceum (031 229 9697). Opens Fri.

LEATHERHEAD: Married Love: Peter Lums (author of *Hedra* and *Bookings*) has written a play about birth control campaigner

FILMS

Marie Stopes. World premiere. Thorndike (0372 377677).

OLDHAM: Taruffa: Christopher Hampton's translation of Molière's study in hypocrisy; directed by John Retallack. Coliseum (061 824 2829). Free public dress rehearsal Thurs. Previews Fri and Oct 12 matinee. Opens Oct 12.

PETERBOROUGH: Gert and Daisy: World premiere of a new musical; Sylvia Syms and Rosemary Leach portray Elsie and Doris Waters; with Peter Goodwright. The Key (0733 52439). Opens Wed.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON: Othello: Ben Kingsley shines in the title role, with David Suchet and Niamh Cusack. Royal Shakespeare Theatre (0789 295623).

FILMS

OPENINGS

GULAG (15): An impressive American cable television production about a sports journalist arrested in Moscow for spying. Directed by Roger Young

on European locations; with David Keith, Malcolm McDowell, (above) David Suchet. ABC Shaftesbury Avenue (01-838 8861). ABC Fulham Road (01-370 2110). From Fri.

THE BLACK CAULDRON (U): The latest cartoon feature from the Disney studio, 10 years in preparation; a sword-and-sorcery tale from the fantasy stories of Lloyd Alexander. Directed by Ted Berman and Richard Rich. Odeon Leicester Square (01-930 6111). From Fri.

COP AU VIN (15): Claude Chabrol's latest thriller, released in France as *Poulet au Vinaigre*; a murder mystery given lustre by its exuberant cast (Stéphane Audran, Jean Poiret, Michel Bouquet). Screen on the Hill (01-435 3366). From Fri.

SELECTED

TYNESIDE FILM FESTIVAL: The eighth edition of the festival

FILMS

celebrating what it calls "the sharp end of world cinema" runs from Fri until Oct 20; with retrospectives of British independent productions and the powerful Russian woman director Larissa Shepitko, and new films from Britain, Spain, Latin America, Japan.

CAMILA (15): Argentine drama about the doomed 19th-century love affair between a socialite and a Jesuit priest. Part romantic melodrama, part social protest; directed by Maria Luisa Bernberg, with excellent performances.

PALE RIDER (15): Clint Eastwood's handsome Western about a stranger helping poor gold prospectors fight off big business. With Michael Moriarty, Carrie Snodgrass. Warner West End (01-439 0791).

THE HUSTLER (18): Welcome revival of the 1961 pool classic, with Paul Newman as the con man who dares to challenge the legendary Minnesota Fats (Jackie Gleason). Electric Screen (01-229 3694).

FILMS

OPENINGS

DESPERATELY SEEKING SUSAN (15): An amusing frolic with Rosanna Arquette and rock star Madonna. Classic Haymarket (01-839 1527). Warner West End (01-439 0791). Gate Bloomsbury (01-837 1177).

GALLERY

OPENINGS

GERMAN ART IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY: Ambitious attempt to demonstrate both the quality and constancy of German art through this troubled century, from the "Die Brücke" artists of the 1900s up to Beuys and Baselitz today.

NACF FILM SEASON: Inspired by the success of their first season of films on artists, the National Art Collections Fund is now running a second which they have expanded to include live talks. They begin with a talk entitled "The Arts and the Media" by Joan Bakewell and a film on Graham Sutherland. Other speakers to follow include William Morris, Mark Gertler, Magritte, Cecil Beaton and Edwin Lutyens.

HUNGARIAN ARTS IN GLASGOW: Much effort has been vested by the Third Eye Centre and art critic Paul Overy in selecting 18 Hungarian

FILMS

artists of this century, with the generous support of the Hungarian state. The show includes "haunting sculptures of loneliness and isolation" by Erzsébet Schaar, and an installation by Sándor Pinczehelyi, which "pokes fun at hallowed Hungarian traditions, particularly gastronomic ones".

For information on events, contact Hungarian Arts in Glasgow, 5 Burgh Hall Street, Glasgow (041 357 2793) from today.

SUSANNA HERON: Wall and floor pieces by the jeweller-turned-sculptress in flint, lead and felt. Whitechapel Gallery, Whitechapel High Street, London E1 (01-377 0107) from Tues.

CHARLES GINNER: Reevaluation of this Camden Town Group artist once accused by Sickert of being one of "the thickest painters in London" (referring to his materials as opposed to his capabilities). The Fine Art Society, 148 New Bond Street, London (01-629 5116) from Mon.

SELECTED

HUMAN INTEREST: The first show for this new gallery sets out to prove that not all modern art is "incomprehensibly abstract". A man survey of British figurative art from the 1930s up to the present, including works by Moore and Bacon up to Ana Maria Pacheco and Rosa Garrard. Cornerhouse Gallery, The Palace Theatre, Oxford Street, Manchester (061-238 9501).

PHOTOGRAPHY

OPENINGS

FAY GODWIN: This week is a feast for Fay Godwin fans with two exhibitions opening in London. "Land", at the Serpentine Gallery, is a gentle evocation of the British landscape, covering her travels over 10 years; "Wessex", at the Photographers' Gallery, concentrates on the legendary landscape of this part of the south-west of England.

VISION OF EDEN: Landscape and architecture paintings by Edwin Smith from 1935 until his death in 1971. RIBA, 66 Portland Place, London W1 (01-580 5533).

PHOTOGRAPHY

THE RULING CLASS in 1968 when he had the cheering experience of hearing a set applauded. "Designers are supposed to feel ashamed when that happens", he says. "but I have always felt rather proud." He joined the RSC in 1974 and never looked back. He is a cool, intuitive worker, well able to soak up the pressures that the theatre imposes. For *Nicholas Nickleby* he was designing costumes only days before the opening. His elaborate and enchanting set for *Peter Pan* was devised in just two and a half weeks.

Creative tensions, though, are inevitable. His relationship with the RSC was temporarily soured last year over *Mother Courage*. The huge cart which Judi Dench was supposed to pull round the stage had an embarrassing habit of getting stuck. On one occasion the audience had to be sent home. Napier puts it down to compromise over cost: he wanted to spend more money, the RSC less.

Go back to their early careers and the similarities end. Nunn came to the theatre from Cambridge. Napier left a London secondary modern at 15. He went to Hornsey College of Art, spent five years honing his skill as a sculptor and then took "one of the few determined decisions of my life" by enrolling for the diploma course in theatre design at the Central School.

At the Central he was lucky enough to be taught by Ralph Koltai, now a colleague at the RSC, but the formal qualifications continued to elude him. He was offered a job as head of design at the Phoenix Theatre, Leicester, took it, and missed his final exams. He never did get his diploma.

His first important London production was Peter Barnes's

How all the stage is his world



Theatregoers who have been dazzled by the sets for *Nicholas Nickleby*, *Cats* and *Starlight Express* may be hard pressed to recall the name of the man who designed them. Which will not worry the unassuming John Napier. He is resigned to being a backroom boy, taking pride from the fact that he is one of the best in the business.

The latest Napier creation is for the Royal Shakespeare Company's *Les Misérables*, which opens next week. It promises to be as original and exciting as all the others, with a complex double revolve and a new kind of moving platform powered by batteries - thus doing away with cables - and manoeuvred by remote control.

Once again it seems that Napier, if not stealing the show from the actors, will be giving them tough competition. Few have come closer to investing sets with star quality. *Les Miz* - as Napier calls it - is the latest in a long series of collaborations with the RSC's director, Trevor Nunn.

He and Nunn are both in their early forties, both dark and with the same slight build, though in Napier's case there is a more careless style of dress and something of a Roman nose to the features and complexion. "We do talk to each other occasionally", he says of Nunn, "but Trevor usually describes me as operating by osmosis."

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Top stage designer

John Napier gives

Lynne Truss the

background to next

week's opening of

Les Misérables

The Ruling Class in 1968 when he had the cheering experience of hearing a set applauded. "Designers are supposed to feel ashamed when that happens", he says. "but I have always felt rather proud." He joined the RSC in 1974 and never looked back. He is a cool, intuitive worker, well able to soak up the pressures that the theatre imposes. For *Nicholas Nickleby* he was designing costumes only days before the opening. His elaborate and enchanting set for *Peter Pan* was devised in just two and a half weeks.

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part from the fact that it happens on wheels, the memorable feature of *Starlight Express* is the projection of the stage into the auditorium, an extension of Napier's experiment in *Nicholas Nickleby* of running a catwalk round the front of the Aldwych circle.

Napier is an expansive designer, enthused by the idea of breaking through the confines of the proscenium. "I have been influenced by the theatre of the 1960s in aiming for audience involvement. But in those days you either had cerebral Royal Court Brechtianism or the Living Theatre screaming in your ear and vomiting on you."

"I have taken another view, that you do not have to be vulgar or aggressive to make contact with the audience. You

do not have to be cerebral, either: you can appeal to the audience's emotions."

Napier excels in delighting audiences both by grandness of spectacle and ingenuity of effects. He also springs surprises, holding back a piece of clever business until the audience is lulled into assuming it has seen all the set has to do. At the very end of *Cats* a previously static rubber tyre lifts Grizabella heavenwards while a segment of starchy wall opens down to form a stairway to paradise.

Napier is getting a reputation for big technical productions and enjoys the opportunity of finding new solutions to complex staging problems. At the same time he is worried that he is forever being approached to do the same kind of show.

"At the moment I am thinking of doing one more 'biggie' and then back-peddalling a bit. Perhaps doing some work in photography" - he took photographs of cobbles in Paris as part of the research for *Les Misérables* - "or cinema. The cinema interests me a lot."

The "biggie" is *Time*, a rock musical on the theme of ecology. Napier describes the project, a little defensively, as "naïve - but endearing because of that". He is enthusiastic about the show's potential for bringing in audiences usually intimidated by the theatre.

Back at the RSC, *Les Misérables* warms up for its opening on Tuesday. The rusty black timber and iron constructions Napier created for *Nickleby* and for the Barbican's opening production of *Henry IV* are re-used in the new set - only this time I've gone for grey," he grins.

Like *Nickleby* this is an epic play, constantly on the move, requiring not a naturalistic setting but an environment that is "totally convincing in its own right" which people can inhabit "to tell the story."

"We represent places not scenically but evocatively," he says. "The idea is to catch the audience's imagination." That's something Napier has rarely failed to do.

Les Misérables previews today and Monday and opens on Tuesday. Barbican Theatre (01-628 8795/638 8891).

ARTS DIARY

Brush with art awards

Is there something fishy about the way big art competition prizes always seem to go to well-known artists? Does the sponsoring body hope to improve its image through the association with some big name? Colin Jellicoe thinks so, and is about to lead a revolt. Jellicoe, who runs the largest private art gallery in Greater Manchester, is encouraging the 80-odd painters on his books, their patrons, friends and rivals, to boycott all competitions - especially the Tate's Turner Prize, and the £25,000 Athena Art Award. "They're not interested in helping young or unknown talent. They want to be identified with artists who are safe and respectable."

Whatever happened to street credibility? Tom Waits, the gravel-voiced blues singer who used to chain-smoke through endless tales of failed romance, and was notorious for staying in backstreet flophouses on tour, has gone legit. His collected-works album, *Asylum Years*, has made him enough fans in London to fill the Dominion Theatre for eight nights, followed by an 18-city European tour. He's given up smoking and drinking, married, and now stays in de luxe hotels. He is to star in two feature films in the spring - *Down by Law*, and *There Ain't No Candy Mountain*.

Amid the wrangling over the Booker short-list, there's at least one small area of agreement, regarding J. L. Carr's *The Battle of Pollock's Crossing*. When it was published, the literary editor of the *Daily Telegraph*, and the editor of *Books & Bookmen* both sent copies to their regular fiction reviewers. Both reviewers sent it back, along with a note politely requesting that, next time, they be sent a real book. Perhaps he's an acquired taste...

Big blunder

The spectacular girth of diva Jessye Norman is clearly not a laughing matter. Just after she left the set of Terry Wogan's chat show, an enormous crash was heard from the wings. "That's Jessye falling over,"

Wogan and Norman

quipped the wicked Wogan. "I wonder who'll pick her up?" Ms Norman was informed and a furious solicitor's letter followed, demanding a retraction of the "implication" that she had been drinking. What implication?

Edward bears up

There's no danger, it seems, of Edward Bowden slowing down. The grand old man of book illustration, who is being honoured with a retrospective at the Royal Academy next summer, and pride of place in the Folio Society's Festival of Illustration in January, is now 83, an age when some artists might rest on their laurels. But not Bowden. His current commissions are a series of tapestry designs for the Edinburgh Tapestry Society, and a densely symbolic lithograph on the British Empire for the Fine Arts Society.

Heap of culture

At last Philistines can have their worst suspicions confirmed. One of the star exhibits at the Hungarian Arts in Glasgow exhibitions, which open today, is a pile of real animal dung at the Third Eye Gallery. The work of self-taught artist Imre Bukta, it is said to represent "the resilience of peasant culture". Elsewhere, one Istvan Haraszty is taking the concept of "kinetic sculpture" to extremes: his exhibit features a free-flying parrot.

BOOKINGS

FIRST CHANCE

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: General booking now open for Nov-Dec, which includes new Jonathan Miller production of *Don Giovanni* from Dec 4, with William Shimell, Josephine Barstow and Felicity Lott, and restaged revival of *Katya Kabanova* by Janáček from Nov 14. Also *Julius Caesar*, *Faust*, and *Orpheus* in the underworld.

NATIONAL THEATRE

First production of Peter Wood's NT group is Congreve's *Love for Love* in the Lyttelton from Nov 13; while Peter Shaffer's *Yonada* will be premiered in the Olivier on Dec 4. Cherkov's *The Cherry Orchard* opens in the Cottesloe on Dec 10. Personal booking from this week. National Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 2252).

WAYNE SLEEP PREMIERE

Wayne Sleep's first ever choreography for a classical ballet company receives its premiere in a royal gala performance given by London City Ballet.

Programme also features André Prokory's *Romeo and Juliet* and *Quadrille* by Jack Carter. Dec 15. Postal booking now open, with personal and phone booking from Oct 14.

Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (01-278 8916).

D. H. LAWRENCE: MARRIAGE AND WAR: First London performance of Roy Spencer's one-man show, spanning the years from the critical triumph of *Sons and Lovers* to the banning of *The Rainbow*. Nov 28. Booking opens this week.

Purcell Room, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191).

OXFORD PRO MUSICA: Highlights of 1985-86 season include: *Pesce Requiem* (Nov 10), and all-Mozart programme with Vienna Chamber Orchestra (Dec 4), plus performances by Hague Philharmonic. Subscriptions available for whole series.

Oxford Pro Musica, 40 George Street, Oxford (0865 240358).

KENT OPERA: BATH THEATRE ROYAL: General booking open for autumn season, with *The Barber of Seville*, *La Traviata* and *Agrippina*. Oct 29-Nov 2. Bath Theatre Royal, Bath (0225 65055).

For ticket availability, performance and opening times, telephone the numbers listed. Theatre: Tony Patrick and Martin Cropper; Galleries: Sarah Jane Checkland; Photography: Michael Young; Films: Geoff Brown; Bookings: Anne Whitehouse

LAST CHANCE

HOCKNEY PAINTS THE STAGE: Sole European showing of exhibition which has toured the United States, with Hockney sets and costumes for the Royal Court's *Ubu Roi*, Glyndebourne productions of *The Rake's Progress* and *The Magic Flute*, and New York Met productions of operas. Also Edward Burna. First major exhibition since the artist's death in 1976, with more than 95 oil and watercolour paintings, collages and drawings. Both close tomorrow.

Hayward Gallery, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 5708).

PERFORMANCE ART: Live events, video, film and tapes concentrating on work of artists associated with newer media. Finishes tomorrow with works by Marie-Jo Lafontaine, Dara Birnbaum and Nan Hoover. Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (01-821 1313) Admission free.

WHO'S AFRAID OF RED, YELLOW AND BLUE: Exhibition to demonstrate the power of colour seen in isolation from form and content, featuring the work of Mondrian, Warhol and Calder. Finishes tomorrow.

Arncliffe Gallery, 16 Narrow Quay, Bristol (0272 259191).

PERSONAL CHOICE - A CELEBRATION OF 20TH CENTURY PHOTOGRAPHS: Thirty people's choices of photographs from the V and A Museum, including work by Don McCullin, Eugene Atget and Robert Frank. Bristol City Art Gallery, Queens Road, Bristol (0272 259771).

UNDERNEATH THE ARCHES: Last night of musical based on music-hall double act of Bud Flanagan and Chesney Allen, played by Kenneth Alan Taylor and Richard Frost. Nottingham Playhouse, Wellington Circus, Nottingham (0602 419419).

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مكتبات الأصيل

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Community solution for Thatcher's second phase

The mood of the Conservative Party on the eve of the annual conference is uneasy. The Government seems much less secure. The public opinion polls make depressing reading. Even Mrs Thatcher's position at the head is questioned, though not yet threatened.

Insofar as the Tory blues are caused by the Government's economic and financial policies, the blame does not rest with their failure or even disappointment that more of what was promised has not been achieved. Much has been achieved in bringing down inflation, raising levels of productivity and efficiency, tilting the balance of power away from autocratic trade unions, encouraging a more enterprising spirit in industry, and fostering a decent record of economic growth. The problems for Mrs Thatcher are mainly two.

In the first place the Government, despite the progress it has made, has a negative image. The advances it has made have been made to seem destructive, in the name of Thatcherism a great swathe has been cut through manufacturing industry and millions of jobs have been destroyed.

In the second place the Government seems not to have a constructive strategy for a second phase, which would justify in the hearts and minds of the people the hard pounding of the first six Thatcher years.

The Prime Minister, her senior colleagues and advisers and her image makers would do well to consider the arguments which were again put forward last evening by Sir Fred Catherwood in a speech to the Wolverhampton Chamber of Commerce. Sir Fred, a former Director-General of the NEDC and now a Conservative Euro-MP, made the basic point that to contemplate deindustrialization is to face eventual ruin. His main argument was that we must have a realistic and specific programme for economic recovery, such a programme is at hand, evolved around and within the European Commission.

In a sentence this programme, conveniently set out in a statement by the president of the commission, Jacques Delors, in March and approved at the Milan summit four months ago, would "get the great fly-wheel of inter-community trade spinning again by the removal of all the remaining internal barriers to trade between willing buyers and willing sellers in the common market."

Despite Tory diffidence about our Community membership, Mrs Thatcher should see this programme as an inviting and exciting avenue to an expanding economic future and push for it.

As Sir Fred said, this programme "builds on that necessary foundation of public sector restraint and the tough anti-inflation policy of the last few years the dynamic of market-led growth which is alone capable of giving the cash-flow to British industry to rebuild its markets with new products, so getting our unemployed back to work and giving hope again to our young."

Societies must build up their reserves

The big building societies are going to have to do some hard thinking in the next two years if they are not going to fall foul of their regulator, the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies. Earlier this week, Michael Bridgeman, the present registrar, warned the societies that, at current levels, their reserve ratios were insufficient to allow them to indulge in the new activities that forthcoming legislation will open up to them.

There seems to be no obvious or easy solution to this for the societies. What Mr Bridgeman would like to see is an easing in the competition between societies for market share which has caused an erosion of the profit margins from which their reserves derive. But he has said this before and it has fallen on deaf ears.

To be fair, they have had to cope with unprecedented competition from outside, notably the clearing banks. So although building societies have improved their reserve ratios in recent years, that trend seems to be over. Certainly there will be virtually no improvement this year.

At present, the societies have no other way of adding to their reserves. But, along with the other legislative changes, the Government is almost certainly considering a relaxation of the rules in this respect.

When that happens, what avenues would be open to societies? Yesterday, the Britannia launched a £75 million

Eurosterling floating rate note. It is the sixth society to do so in recent weeks. Enterprising merchant bankers must be wondering if they can now sell the concept of a perpetual floater, similar to those recently discovered by the clearing banks, as a way of boosting reserves.

There are obvious problems with the idea. The notes issued by the banks ranked below the rights of depositors but above those of shareholders in the degree of risk. With building societies, the depositors are the shareholders, so the assumption must be that a perpetual FRN would rank right at the bottom of the list. Yet the danger of the Halifax folding must be as remote as that of Lloyd's or NatWest bank, and if the price on the notes was right, investors could doubtless be found for building society issues.

Another problem is the Euromarket itself. The banks were raising money in the enormous Eurodollar bond market, and they were already familiar as international borrowers. The Eurosterling bond market is tiny by comparison and building societies are hardly well known names to foreign investors.

Yet, by 1987, this may have changed dramatically. Building society issues already make up £675 million of the £3 billion Eurosterling FRN market, so investors must be learning about them fast.

With the tight investment conditions when the time comes, building societies may find themselves able to buy their ticket into the brave new world of wider services through the Eurobond market.

Serious threat to the names system

The mass suspensions of PCW names by Lloyd's insurance market earlier this week came as no surprise. Battle-lines have been drawn for some time. Lloyd's publicly maintained position is that the £130 million losses are trading losses and there will, therefore, be no market rescue as there was in the Sasse affair, where losses were deemed to have arisen as a result of fraud.

PCW names maintain that their losses are part and parcel of the past misappropriation of £40 million of their money by the former managers of the syndicates. They, therefore, refuse to pay their losses and intend to sue.

The damage to Lloyd's from a long drawn-out law suit in which Lloyd's looks certain to be one of many defendants, would be incalculable. It could not fail to discourage potential new names at a time when brokers are crying out for more capacity and rates are hardening nicely. Lloyd's has it in its power to find an out-of-court solution. Several ideas for dealing with the problem have been floated by concerned Lloyd's people.

One is that, as in the Sasse case, names pay for a proportion of their losses and their liability is then capped by a giant stop-loss policy taken out across the whole market. This would involve all the names bearing a part of the PCW losses. Names who have managed to keep themselves off the problem syndicates are not that keen.

Another idea is that Lloyd's should bang heads together and force the big brokers involved to pay a proportion of the losses, as well as the names, and then cap off the losses with a market stop-loss. A third solution could be for the brokers, or Lloyd's itself, to guarantee a letter of credit to cover the losses and for names to pay the insurance claims as they become due. The drawback would be that no cash pool would be created up front to earn interest to pay future claims.

For names to be prepared to pay up, some sort of independent estimate needs to be made of how much of the losses are due to past misdeeds. It is a hideously complicated saga to unravel, but names have always maintained they will pay bona fide trading losses.

By saying they will not pay, names are calling Lloyd's bluff as never before. Unless Lloyd's pursue them through the courts - all 199 of them - other names who bear a loss will be tempted not to pay. The system could be seriously threatened.

Some solution must be found. It is doubtful if a settlement can be hammered out that will be fair to all parties, if only because those who caused the mess and made off with the loot are living abroad and have not been charged with any crime. That is a matter of great regret to Lloyd's and one it can do nothing about.

Meanwhile there are matters it can do something about.

Opec poised to follow Saudis in discount 'malpractice'

From David Young, Vienna

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries ruled in Vienna yesterday that the Saudi Arabian move into price discounting is against its rules, but it decided that it will spend the next two months attempting to find a way of adopting a similar system for all its members.

The decision to adjourn the Opec meeting until December 3 in Geneva, is already being interpreted by oil industry analysts in Vienna as a sign of Opec's intention to move towards a market-related price structure.

The Saudi discount scheme has been added to the list of Opec "malpractices", but Dr Subroto, president of Opec, said yesterday: "Not all malpractices are negative".

Dr Subroto came close to admitting that a market-related structure would be adopted when he voiced approval for the free market-related system now used to set North Sea prices in the wake of the British Government's abolition of the British National Oil Corporation, which previously fixed prices.

Dr Subroto said that Opec ministers would meet in the next two months to draw up a response to the present outbreak of price discounting by Opec members.

He said: "It is not the case that we have decided to do nothing, but we must be prepared for the new system if we are to face the new problems and the new challenges that Opec now has."

The Saudi system prices oil

being delivered to Exxon, Mobil and Texaco for use in their West European refineries at a rate reflecting the price realized for the products produced from the crude oil involved. This, in effect, means that Saudi light crude is being priced for those customers at about \$2.50 a barrel less than the official Opec market rate of \$28.

Saudi Arabia yesterday defended its move into discounting and Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the Saudi oil minister, spent the morning explaining to other oil ministers how the system operates.

He said later: "It is not a new practice. It is a common practice."

Opec also confirmed yesterday that Saudi Arabia had abandoned its role as swing

producer - using its massive output potential to iron out the peaks and troughs in world demand - so that it now has a fixed quota of 4.3 million barrels a day.

The problem of quotas will also be negotiated at Geneva in December. Two of the smallest producers, Gabon and Ecuador, have already suggested that they may leave Opec if they cannot increase output.

The most serious problem facing Opec on quotas, however, is still Iraq's demand that it should be allowed to increase production by half a million barrels a day from 1.2 million, coupled with Iran's statement that it will increase output by two barrels for each additional barrel Iraq produces.

Buyout plan for Thorn film division

By Jeremy Warner

Senior executives of Thorn EMI Screen Entertainment, one of the largest film companies outside the United States, have asked County Bank to draw up proposals for a management buyout.

A thorough review of all Thorn EMI's businesses is being conducted by Morgan Grenfell and the screen entertainment division is seen as a prime candidate for sale.

Financial arrangements for a buyout are understood to be well advanced and a deal could be completed by Christmas if the parent company decides to cooperate.

The management bid could face stiff competition from others, including Mr Robert Holmes à Court, the Australian entrepreneur who already has considerable television and entertainment interests in Britain.

Mr Holmes à Court was at one time said to be interested in bidding for the whole of Thorn EMI, which takes in records, lighting and electronics, but his attention may now have switched back to Australia where he is reported to be about to renew his assault on Broken Hill Proprietary, the industrial and mining group.

Mr Holmes à Court's Bell Corporation, which has made two previous bids for BHP, Australia's largest company, yesterday disclosed that it had built up a 10 per cent stake in BHP. Analysts said this almost certainly understated the true position.

Thorn EMI's screen entertainment division takes in more than 100 ABC cinemas, a substantial film production and finance business, a third interest in Columbia/EMI/Warner, the film distributor, the Elstree film studios, substantial video distribution interests, and two cable TV stations.

The division, which is headed by Mr Gary Darnall, the driving force behind the management buyout proposal, made profits of nearly £12 million on sales of £132.8 million last year.

Heavy investment in film production and distribution rights is believed to have led to a sharp decline in the company's profitability so far this year.

Morgan Grenfell was brought in to review the Thorn EMI group after the management upheaval that led to the appointment of Sir Graham Wilkins as chairman and chief executive in July.

JMB writ is struck out

Johnson Matthey Bankers' writ for damages against the accountancy firm of Arthur Young was struck out in the High Court yesterday at the request of Arthur Young's lawyers.

But a spokesman for the Bank of England, which took over JMB after the bank's spectacular troubles of last year, said last night that JMB intended to pursue its action.

The writ was struck out because too much time had elapsed since its service in July without a claim being lodged.

Volcker tipped for World Bank post

From Sarah Hogg Seoul

A decision on the future president of the World Bank is expected by the end of the IMF meetings here, amid mounting speculation that Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, would like the job.

The present incumbent, Mr Tom Clausen, ends his first five-year term next June, and has always let it be known he wished to serve only one term.

However, Mr Volcker's term as head of America's central bank does not end until the following summer, which would mean he would have to leave the Fed early or Mr Clausen would have to fill in the gap.

Other candidates have been discussed, but none of the stature of Mr Volcker. It is thought to be extremely important that the World Bank should have strong leadership at a time when the American Administration is planning a greatly enhanced role for it.

The job is traditionally in the gift of the US Administration, the largest shareholder in the World Bank.

The American Administration is expected to launch a series of initiatives at IMF and World Bank meetings to demonstrate a new readiness to supply loans to developing countries.

Today the US delegation is expected to provide details of



Paul Volcker: might leave Fed early

its scheme for providing up to \$5 billion (£3.5 billion) of joint IMF and World Bank money for the poorest countries.

This evening, at a follow-up meeting of the Group of Five top finance ministers of the industrialized world (excluding the British Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, who has declined to attend these meetings and is sending a junior Treasury minister, Mr Ian Stewart, instead), the Americans will discuss the plans, described as "an international social contract" with the other paymasters of the IMF and World Bank.

This Group of Five meeting will also review the progress of action to lower the value of the dollar.

Big losses of factory jobs in US

From Mohsin Ali Washington

Unemployment in the United States rose by 0.1 of a percentage point to 7.1 per cent in September as the manufacturing sector suffered heavy job losses. The Department of Labour announced yesterday.

The small rise came after the unemployment rate fell in August to its lowest level in more than five years, and was in line with the predictions of most analysts.

Of a 115.8 million labour force, 8.3 million people were unemployed in September. A year ago the unemployment rate stood at 7.4 per cent.

A total of 110,000 factory jobs were lost in September. But claims in other industries such as services offset losses so that employment rose by 372,000 jobs.

The nation's foreign trade deficit has been blamed for manufacturing job losses and weaker growth. This has led to support in Congress for limiting imports.

The economy has shown stronger growth recently, however. Output of goods and services was up, the trade deficit has grown more slowly and manufacturers' orders have risen.

IN BRIEF

Dollar gains ground

The dollar, after coming under pressure earlier bounced back in late London trading yesterday to close at \$1.4160 against the pound, up from \$1.4208 on Thursday.

Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 80.2 to 79.6.

Dealers said that the markets were nervous about central bank intervention to force the dollar down. Trading was thin and spreads wide. Nevertheless, the dollar gained from profit taking and squaring of books, while sterling suffered from oil price uncertainty.

The mark, yen and Swiss franc were more in demand. The dollar closed at DM2.6360 and SwF 2.1575. The yen hardly changed at Y213.20 to the dollar.

Hotel deal

Queens Moat Houses, the hotels group, has paid £1.1 million in cash to buy 29.9 per cent of the Harrogate International Hotel, Queens Moat has 65 hotels, but none in Harrogate.

John Crowther Group failed in the High Court yesterday in its attempt to have its injunction reimposed to stop Carpets International from recommending FMA Textile's higher bid to shareholders.

Lyle turnaround

Lyle Shipping announced pre-tax profits of £4.77 million for the six months to June 30, against losses of £6.09 million in the same period last year.

Tempus, page 21

Share purchase

Morgan Grenfell the merchant bank adviser to United Newspapers, bought a further 140,000 United shares on Thursday, it disclosed yesterday.

Zambian auction

Zambia is to auction its scarce foreign exchange to make imports more expensive and bring a sharp devaluation of the kwacha. President Kenneth Kaunda said yesterday.

Strata value

In yesterday's article in Templus on Strata Investments the asset value after expenses was stated as 90p. The figure should have been 96p.

What's behind the mountain?

"Perpetual has perhaps the most impressive track record of all the management groups over the ten year period."

Planned Savings

June 1985

"Who is the best of the biggest unit Managers?"

...awards for consistency to Perpetual... for achieving a place in the top five for all the years shown 99 (one year, two years, three years, four years, five years and ten years). *Baily Telegraph*

Saturday 13th July 1985



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Perpetual Group Growth Fund
Growth Fund up 178% for capital growth

Perpetual Group Income Fund
Income Fund up 186% for capital growth

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*N.B. Figures on offer to bid back and Growth Fund (72) include net reinvested income. You should remember that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

Bilton may opt for cash call

Percy Bilton, the revamped property group, may need to raise fresh capital to fund its development programme, it is said yesterday, after publishing its half-time profits.

A debenture issue had been discussed, a board spokesman said, but there had been no decision about the timing. Nor had the amount of fresh capital to be raised been agreed.

Interim profits for the six months to September 30 totalled £5.2 million, fractionally ahead of the comparable figure for 1984.

The interim dividend rises from 3.9p to 4p. The construction side, performed well, with profits rising from £600,000 to £1.9 million.

The group disclosed that it now owns more than 90 per cent of the freeholds of its existing property portfolio.

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

FT Ind Ord	1016.5 (+5.6)
FT All Share	637.94 (+3.92)
FT Govt Securities	84.31 (+0.23)
FT-SE 100	1313.1 (+7.8)
Bargains	21.189
Dow Jones USM	105.89 (+1.75)
New York	
Dow Jones	1324.92 (-8.17)
Tokyo	
Nikkei Dow	12,713.83 (+12.97)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	1587.87 (+6.80)
Amsterdam Gen	212.4 (-2.0)
Sydney: AO	1006.4 (-2.5)
Frankfurt	
Commerzbank	1592.2 (unch'd)
Brussels:	
General	514.20 (+15.53)
Paris: CAC	205.9 (-2.6)

GOLD

London fixing:	
am 330.55pm - \$328.00	
close 327.50 - 328.00	(£230.50)
231-00	
New York:	
Comex \$226.75	

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Real Time	100p +27p
Sydney Hld.	8p +2p
Esprit Oil	48p +8p
J. Sec. Al.	53p +8p
Osceola Hyd.	32p +4p
Telefun Ord.	28p +3p
Com. Tech. Gr.	10.50p +1p
Oil Search	28p +2.75p
Egoli Gold	78p +8p
Oliver Res.	22p +2p
Humberts. E.	12p +1p
Bailley (CH)	15.25p +1.25p
Woodhead (J)	63.50p +5p
Randol	37p +3p
Hallwood Gr.	96p +8p
Imperial Group	207p +10p
Invent Energy	£169½ + £1½
FALLS:	
Ass. Hotels	2p -1p
Botswana	8p -1p
Sparrow (GW)	39p -4p
Centraway TR	21p -2p
Control Secs.	21p -2p
Bailley (Sen)	29p -2p
Keen & S.	38p -3p
Accorn Comp.	69p -5p
Vyrin. Inv.	28p -2p
Dawson Oil	287p -22p

CURRENCIES

London:	
£: \$1.4160 (-0.0048)	
£: DM 3.7211 (-0.0090)	
£: SwFr 3.0537 (+0.0016)	
£: FF 11.3600 (-0.0242)	
£: Yen 302.53 (-0.34)	
£ Index: 79.6 (-0.6)	
New York:	
£: \$1.4180	
£: DM 2.6335	
£ Index: 130.0 (-0.7)	
ECU £0.59355	
SDR £0.75192	

INTEREST RATES

London:	
Bank Base: 11½%	
3-month Interbank 11½ - 11½%	
3-month eligible bills:	
buying rate 11½ - 11½%	
US:	
Prime Rate 9.50%	
3-month Treasury 7½%	
3-month Treasury Bills 7.00-6.98%	
30-year bond price 100-99½	

THE TIMES
Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card.

You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	Year's gain or loss
1	BUILDING AND ROADS	
2	Ben Bros	
3	Conall	
4	May & Head	
5	McAlpine (Alfred)	
6	Ward	
7	Redland	
8	Trent	
9	Meyer Int	
10	Magnum & South	
11	INDUSTRIALS A-D	
12	Amber Ltd	
13	Ashtley	
14	Boots	
15	Barlow Rand	
16	BBA	
17	Bowater	
18	BTR	
19	Bedwood	
20	ARMOURY AND STORES	
21	Las Cooper	
22	Stemmer	
23	Freemans	
24	Rotors Jewellers	
25	Fine Art Dev	
26	GUS	
27	Mos Bros	
28	Habitat Motocare	
29	Green SR	
30	Mark & Spencer	
31	INDUSTRIALS E-H	
32	Manchester Ship	
33	Leid	
34	Metal Clomex	
35	RHP	
36	Lim Midland	
37	Portals	
38	Red Int	
39	Parmit Int	
40	Mos (Robert)	

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £20,000 in today's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

1985	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chge	Cross
						Price %

SHORTS (Under Five Years)	
1985	High

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS	
1985	High

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS	
1985	High

UNDATED	
1985	High

INDEX-LINKED	
1985	High

BANKS DISCOUNT HP	
1985	High

BANKS DISCOUNT HP	
1985	High

BANKS DISCOUNT HP	
1985	High

BANKS DISCOUNT HP	
1985	High

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BANKS DISCOUNT HP	
1985	High

BANKS DISCOUNT HP	
1985	High

BANKS DISCOUNT HP	
1985	High

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares near peak

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Sept 30. Dealings End, Oct 11. Contango Day, Oct 14. Settlement Day, Oct 21.

\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Chge	Cross
						Price %

BUILDING AND ROADS						
1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Chge	Cross
						Price %

FINANCE AND LAND						
1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Chge	Cross
						Price %

FOODS						
1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Chge	Cross
						Price %

HOTELS AND CATERERS						
1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Chge	Cross
						Price %

INDUSTRIALS A-D						
1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Chge	Cross
						Price %

INDUSTRIALS E-H						
1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Chge	Cross
						Price %

INDUSTRIALS I-L						
1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Chge	Cross
						Price %

INDUSTRIALS M-P						
1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Chge	Cross
						Price %

INDUSTRIALS Q-R						
1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Chge	Cross
						Price %

INDUSTRIALS S-Z						
1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Chge	Cross
						Price %

INDUSTRIALS A-D						
1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Chge	Cross
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INDUSTRIALS E-H						
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INDUSTRIALS M-P						
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FINANCE AND LAND						
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HOTELS AND CATERERS						
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						Price %

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						Price %

INDUSTRIALS Q-R						
1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Chge	Cross
						Price %

1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Chge	Cross
						Price %

FINANCE AND LAND						
1985	High	Low	Company	Price	Chge	Cross
						Price %

WEEKLY DIVIDEND £20,000 Claims required for +185 points

PRINTING, ADVERTISING

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

The dollar rebounded from earlier weakness yesterday to close a touch ahead of previous closing levels against other leading currencies.

Sterling slipped to 1.4160, having fallen to above 1.4350 in early trading. The pound's trade-weighted index, from a high of 80.3 at about lunchtime, ended at 79.6.

The pound lost ground to the mark, to 3.7211 (3.7300). Dealers said the dollar's upsurge, which came in the last couple of hours of trading, was a result of normal end-of-week position squaring by large commercial operators, with some profit-taking after the dollar's decline in the past few days.

Market rates	1 month	3 months
New York	1.4150-1.4160	1.4150-1.4170
London	1.4150-1.4160	1.4150-1.4170
Frankfurt	1.4150-1.4160	1.4150-1.4170
Paris	1.4150-1.4160	1.4150-1.4170
Geneva	1.4150-1.4160	1.4150-1.4170
Basel	1.4150-1.4160	1.4150-1.4170
Zurich	1.4150-1.4160	1.4150-1.4170

Market rates	1 month	3 months
New York	1.4150-1.4160	1.4150-1.4170
London	1.4150-1.4160	1.4150-1.4170
Frankfurt	1.4150-1.4160	1.4150-1.4170
Paris	1.4150-1.4160	1.4150-1.4170
Geneva	1.4150-1.4160	1.4150-1.4170
Basel	1.4150-1.4160	1.4150-1.4170
Zurich	1.4150-1.4160	1.4150-1.4170

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Rates again showed little change yesterday, ending a quiet week almost exactly where they were the previous Friday.

There was a little selling of the one-month sterling Certificate of Deposit to meet liquidity needs in a tight money situation. The "sixes" and beyond looked ready to ease at first with the firm pound, but little business actually emerged.

Day-to-day funding again had to contend with a huge shortage. Money traded at about 12½-13½ per cent during the morning. It became easier in the afternoon and closed at about 11 per cent.

Local authorities showed the same tight money situation. Euro-dollar deposits remained subdued, little affected either by the latest US money supply figures or the September unemployment situation.

In the discount market, a quiet week finished with period rates barely disturbed from the positions on which they closed seven days earlier.

Term	Rate
1 month	11.00
3 months	11.00
6 months	11.00
12 months	11.00

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Company	Price	Change	Yield
101	101.00	0.00	10.00
102	102.00	0.00	10.00
103	103.00	0.00	10.00
104	104.00	0.00	10.00
105	105.00	0.00	10.00

COMMODITIES

Commodity	Price	Change
101	101.00	0.00
102	102.00	0.00
103	103.00	0.00
104	104.00	0.00
105	105.00	0.00

WALL STREET

New York (Reuters) - The stock market pulled lower in early trading yesterday after a government report that the civilian unemployment rate in September increased to 7.1 per cent, from 7.0 per cent in August.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down 6.83 points to 1,326.28. Declines led advances by a five to three margin on a turnover of 7.57 million shares.

IBM was down 1½ to 123 in active trading, while Beatrice, mentioned recently in takeover speculations, was down ¾ to 37½.

Index	Value
Dow Jones	1,326.28

COMPANY NEWS

Company	News
101	101.00
102	102.00
103	103.00
104	104.00
105	105.00

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Contract	Price	Change
101	101.00	0.00
102	102.00	0.00
103	103.00	0.00
104	104.00	0.00
105	105.00	0.00

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Company	Price	Change
101	101.00	0.00
102	102.00	0.00
103	103.00	0.00
104	104.00	0.00
105	105.00	0.00

APPOINTMENTS

Appointment	Time
101	101.00
102	102.00
103	103.00
104	104.00
105	105.00

TEMPUS

Gilts wait for Godot and the Chancellor

The gilt market ahead of the weekend, and a critical week for the Tory Party, had a smooth ride to it, which belied some of the traders' more anguished fears earlier in the week. Frequently, the market's gyrations recall a medieval morality play gone awry, with figures in a landscape acting out of role.

Yesterday, all the main players, such as the Government, the Bank of England and the discount houses, (which rank as a cast of thousands in this production) turned in a restrained yet classical performance with no one fluffing his lines.

The Government Broker led the market on by encouraging bids for his sole remaining tap, Exchequer 10½ per cent 1997, at £101½, his expected selling price. He then rebuffed the jobbers, but relented at ½ point higher up, where he exhausted his £250 million tranche.

The Government Broker had a good week. At critical moments, he turned on the charm to such effect that he may have wrapped up around £700 million worth of funding. Some claim he now has no more taps on the shelf to sell.

Such paucity of stock makes the Government Broker's refusal to grab the limelight at 3.30 and announce a new issue all the more remarkable. Traders gauged therefore that his non-appearance might be connected with unsuitable hints that offering stock at current yields levels was unwise because yields are booked to fall.

Granted the imminence of the Chancellor's speech to the Tory faithful at Blackpool next week, this might mean that discounts are ready to drop. The discount houses certainly behaved as if they were expecting this. Yesterday, the Treasury bill tender attracted an average rate of discount of just 10.965 per cent, a fall on last week's figure.

More significantly, yesterday's rate marked a move below the 11 per cent mark, and hence a change in the psychologically important big figure.

The Bank of England, which normally stands in for the Deity in these productions, was also disposed to be accommodating. The daily shortage was around £900 million, and the houses, as ever, were reluctant to offer longer-dated paper; around £300 million of Band 2 paper was sold during the day. To take out the rest of the

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Drink shares in sparkling form

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

Drink shares were again in a sparkling ferment yesterday. They led the way as the stock market climbed towards its all-time peak with hopes abounding that those who believe in a traditional Tory Party conference interest rate cut would not be disappointed.

Imperial Group and the Distillers Co., closely followed by a host of regional breweries, were in demand in a market often acutely short of stock.

Stories that Mr Alan Bond, who is keen to expand his British interest, was again contemplating an Imps bid pushed the shares up 10p to 207p. The excitement was intensified by Imps' decision not to join in the Elders consortium in its Allied-Lyons bid.

DCL surged to a new peak of 428p before closing at 425p. Next week, the company is due to meet broker analysts for a two-day investment seminar.

The shares have risen from 270p this year, accompanied by a variety of take over rumours. Argyll Group has indicated a possible interest but cannot take any action until December.

City interest in Apricot Computers revived yesterday, taking the share up higher to 84p, as the news came of product launches and visits to the company over the next two weeks. Apricot has hitherto been a profit warning and sharp cuts in forecasts by analysts.

Regional breweries bubbled brightly with take over hopes dominating sentiment. Many in the market seem convinced that a bid is due but are having difficulty identifying the possible target. Imps is regarded as a likely bid, if only for defensive reasons.

The market is convinced that the Scottish & Newcastle Breweries' bid for Matthew Brown, the Blackburn brewery, will be cleared by the Monopolies Commission, although its report, due towards the end of this month, has still to be

Traded option highlights

While market men speculated about high-traded options volume in Imperial Group, where City rumour is rife - Courtauld, springing a surprise yesterday, reaching up a far higher total than Imps.

There were 2,719 contracts traded in Courtauld, against 1,430 in Imps. Total business for the day amounted to 12,072.

The sudden upsurge in business appeared to be relatively widespread, the only other option registering a total above 1,000 being the stock exchange index option. There were few significant price changes on options.

TEMPUS

change much more shipowners are going to have to be persuaded or forced to scrap their vessels. Until there is any sign of a real cut in the industry's capacity the shares are unlikely to budge far from yesterday's 13½p.

Baltic

Baltic's news left the stock market distinctly unimpressed yesterday. The company claimed it had received an offer worth 287½p a share but in the market its shares, initially at least, fell to 262p picking up later to 267p.

The offer, admittedly, is rather unusual. It is from a new company, to be called Nevi Baltic, consisting of the existing Baltic plus £12 million cash provided by A/S Nevi, a Norwegian financial services group. A/S Nevi will hold 60 per cent of the shares and will inject some of its own expertise into the company. In particular, it is contemplating bringing in successful cash and credit card, Multicard, into Britain.

The market seems to be concerned by the offer itself. For each Baltic share, holders are being offered one ordinary share which has been underwritten at 125p and convertible preference shares valued at 162½p. It may be that investors will decide they have sufficient exposure to the ordinary shares through the preference and so opt for the cash alternative of 13½p.

For Baltic the deal is undoubtedly a good one, enabling it to maintain a good rate of growth. It estimates profits of £3.9 million for the year to July 1985, up from £3.1 million. The offer represents a reasonable multiple of 13 times historic earnings. Shareholders in the new company will have the benefit of a more generous dividend policy with a payout of 3.5p promised for the 17 months to December 1986.

For Mr Michael Goddard, the majority shareholder in Baltic, the deal is also attractive. He realizes nearly £5 million in cash and takes 15 per cent of the new company's equity.

In time, Nevi Baltic will probably become less demanding on leasing but in the short term it will continue to account for 60 per cent of the company's business. Given current adverse sentiment in the City, this could continue to hold the shares back.

RECENT ISSUES

Company	Price	Change
101	101.00	0.00
102	102.00	0.00
103	103.00	0.00
104	104.00	0.00
105	105.00	0.00

RECENT ISSUES

Company	Price	Change
101	101.00	0.00
102	102.00	0.00
103	103.00	0.00
104	104.00	0.00
105	105.00	0.00

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54 BRANCHES THROUGHOUT THE UK. T.15

Edited by Lorna Bourke

FAMILY MONEY/1

New Year merger brings two big groups together but will the investors benefit?

Millions may miss a payout

BUILDING SOCIETIES

The one million members of the Alliance Building Society, which this week officially merged with the Leicester Building Society, have lost out on a cash bonus that could have been paid out to them before the merger.

And the same thing could happen to the members of the National Building Society when it merges with the Woolwich early next year.

Alliance members could have been in line for a cash bonus of around £16 each if the directors of the society had agreed to the payout. And because it was not made, the Leicester members have been the ones to gain.

Before the merger, the Alliance had a reserve ratio of 4.01 per cent, represented by £91 million in cash or near cash and £38 million in fixed assets. This money by rights belonged to the members of the Alliance Building Society.

The Leicester, however, brought to the merger a reserve ratio of only 3.52 per cent — roughly half a percentage point lower than the Alliance. If nothing was done, the reserve ratio of the combined society would become 3.78 per cent — a benefit to the Leicester members at the expense of cash that belonged to Alliance investors.

And it is this difference between the two reserve ratios which could have been paid out to Alliance members — a sum of around £16 million, of their cash.

This would have meant a bonus of around £16 for every investing and borrowing mem-

ber. Or it could have been divided up in proportion to the size of a person's investment — excluding the borrowing members — in which case big investors with the Alliance have missed out on quite a sizeable sum.

So why did the Alliance not let its members know what they might be losing? This is a matter for decision between the two societies, and the terms which have been agreed by the boards were put to the members," said Roy Cox, chief general manager of the newly named Alliance and Leicester. "Obviously one looks at these

things and it was not felt that there was a case for making a payout."

Alliance members used to belong to a society with a reserve ratio of 4.01 per cent and they now belong to a society with a reduced reserve ratio of 3.78 per cent. So how have they benefited?

"Members have benefited from belonging to a larger society with more branches and all the other things that were set out in the leaflet that went out to members," said Mr Cox.

However, it was not explained to members that the society had the option of paying out a cash bonus from its reserves to bring its ratio into line with that of the Leicester. As a result, it could be argued that the Leicester members have benefited at the expense of the Alliance investors.

And the same thing could happen to Nationwide's members when it merges with the Woolwich in the new year. Nationwide has a reserve ratio of 4.2 per cent represented by cash and assets of £370 million. This money belongs to the Nationwide members. Woolwich's reserve ratio is approximately 0.5 lower at 3.72 and the difference of around 0.5 per cent or £44 million could be paid out to Nationwide's 3.3 million investors.

This would work out at a

cash bonus of £13 for every investor — higher for larger investors if the payout is made in proportion to the sum invested.

Will this be offered as an option to Nationwide's members when they are asked to vote on the merger?

"That is a very interesting and arguable point," said Tim Melville Ross, chief general manager of Nationwide. "But we need all the reserves we can get."

Will Nationwide members be asked to vote on this? "No — because it won't be an option."

Invest judiciously on the off-chance

Mr Melville Ross takes the view that this is a decision for a board to make and the board is likely to want reserves to be as high as possible.

He points out that the Registrar of Friendly Societies is currently looking at capital requirements in the light of the new Building Societies Act which will give the societies greater freedom to lend and that reserves are likely to be crucial in qualifying for the new freedom to lend — unsecured if necessary.

"I acknowledge that there is a basic inequity between the

reserves of the Nationwide and the Woolwich but there are many other arguments in favour of the merger and not paying out anything from reserves," says Mr Melville Ross.

No doubt Nationwide members will have views on this when asked to vote in favour of the merger.

The Registrar of Friendly Societies has indicated that societies which want to expand into other forms of lending will need a reserve ratio of 5 per cent. But do members want their building society to embark on more risky lending?

There have been precedents for payouts to members, most notably by small societies when they are trying to persuade members to agree to a merger with larger societies.

"It is not uncommon for a small society which is trying to talk its members into agreeing to a merger with a larger society to promise a bonus at the next half-yearly dividend payment," said Tricia McLaughlin, of the Building Societies Association.

Indeed, investors with an eye to a quick profit might take a look at those small societies most likely to be involved in a merger and make a judicious investment on the off-chance of a bonus payout.

Lorna Bourke



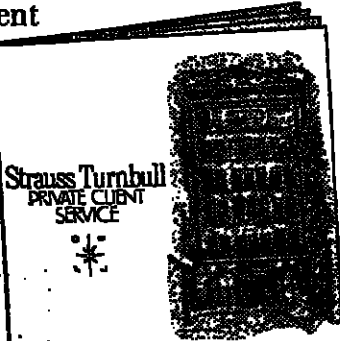
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GENERAL INFORMATION

Naturally, the characteristics of the German market, and the nature of the growth shares chosen for the portfolio, mean that the starting yield is low. It is not expected to exceed 3% gross per annum.

The price of units during the 3 week initial launch period will be 20p. Applications will be acknowledged by contract note and unit certificates will be issued within 6 weeks. Units may be sold back at any time at the bid price ruling. Payment will normally be made within 10 working days, from receipt of your completed certificate.

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In case of joint applications, all must sign and provide names and addresses on a separate sheet.

Block Letters Please (Please state Mr., Mrs., Miss or Title).

Forenames

Surname

Address

Signature

Date

TS/10

مكتبات الأصيل

FAMILY MONEY/2

مكنا من المال

The taxman hands out CTT warning

An indication from the Inland Revenue that it will be taking a closer look at some of the more controversial capital transfer tax avoidance schemes, was given this week. Correspondence between the Institute of Chartered Accountants and the Inland Revenue, reveals that the Revenue is not happy with some of the inheritance trust schemes and will be challenging them in the near future.

In reply to a request for clarification on inheritance trusts from the Chartered Accountants, the Revenue said: "The wide-ranging nature of the term inheritance trusts makes it difficult to give the confirmation you seek. The term can be used rather loosely in the context of insurance schemes and while some of these may be regarded as not open to challenge, others are, and cases will be going to the Special Commissioners in due course."

The Revenue has given no indication of which types of inheritance trusts it might challenge but the discounted gift schemes are believed to be the most vulnerable to attack.

Indecision in the building societies

Ever since the recent Building Societies Association decision to cut mortgage lending rates was taken, indecision seems to have been the key word for investment rates.

Notification of new higher investment rates continue to flood in. The best rate

offered (and notified to us) in the past two weeks is from the Lambeth Building Society, whose usually competitive Magnum account has just increased its rate to 10.25 per cent on balances between £500 and £10,000, and 10.51 per cent for larger investments up to a maximum of £200,000. Six weeks' notice or a loss of 84 days' interest for instant access is really a small penalty for such a good return.

Continuing the pattern of better rates being offered by smaller building societies, City and Metropolitan does quite well offering 10.25 per cent on its two-year fixed term share for a minimum investment of £1,000. The rate is not fixed, but is guaranteed to be 3 points above the society's ordinary share rate. Fixed term investments will, of course, attract a higher rate of interest, but Britannia is paying 9.95 per cent on a 60-day notice account.

For really easy access, the Cheshire Building Society's Super Share Plus account offers 9.6 per cent on an instant access account, with the added option of monthly income on balances of more than £2,000.

Stable house prices

House prices have remained almost static during the last 12 months in some areas of Britain, notably Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and North, North-west and West Midlands, according to the latest statistics from Abbey National Building Society. All these areas recorded rises of less than 2 per cent during the past year compared with a national increase of 7.5 per cent.

Christmas cheer

Do you remember when you first opened an account with the Bristol & West Building Society? Account holders who have been members for at least 40

years are in the running for a Christmas hamper from Bristol & West, which is looking for its 100 longest-standing investors.

Tracking down the lucky hundred will not be easy. John Hutton, of Bristol & West, said: "We have identified quite a few qualifiers from the records but account transfers, computerization and even mergers mean that many original accounts have been changed."

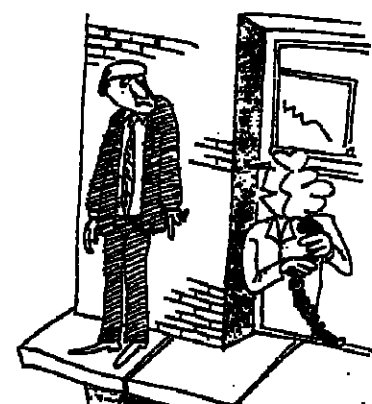
Bristol & West would like to hear from anyone who believes he or she qualifies. "Some of the customers are certain to have been on the society's books since before the Second World War," Mr Hutton said.

Hotline warming up

Investment advisers Murray Noble could be swamped with telephone calls on its new Pensions Hotline. Members of occupational pension schemes have difficulty in getting independent advice on pensions, but Murray Noble is volunteering to deal with queries on everything from pension portability, preserving pension provision, releasing paid-up pensions and how and what to negotiate for to improve one's pension. Murray Noble is hoping to tap the market of 11 million employees who do not belong to a company pension scheme in order to sell them a personal pension policy. But, inevitably, if offering guidance on pensions generally, it will have a flood of calls from members of occupational schemes. The Pensions Hotline number is 01-242 2323.

Higher borrowing

Barclays Bank is raising the ceiling on the maximum personal loan. Customers can now borrow up to £7,500 compared with a previous limit of £5,500. Smaller loans will also be available with a minimum dropping from £500 to £300.



It's your wife - she wants to know if you're wearing clean underwear

Personal loans are on offer from 12 months to three years for consumer durables and up to five years for home improvements. It is, however, expensive borrowing compared with a loan from your building society. The APR is 22.8 per cent compared with building society rates of about 13 per cent.

Trust in Japan

A new unit trust from the fund managers Touche Remnant could be one to go for. It is launching a Japan Growth Trust and it performs as well as its Special Opportunities, Smaller Companies and General Growth funds (now second, third and tenth in the one-year league table) it could be a winner. "We are extremely pleased with the recent performance of TR funds and we are now stepping up unit trust activities," John Gittings, managing

director of Touche Remnant unit trust management said. "In launching new funds we shall be placing great emphasis on timing. The recent correction in Japanese blue chips and the weakness in the yen, combined with the opportunities presented in the domestic sector and the developing potential of China, convince us that the time may now be right for investment in Japan. Details: Touche Remnant Unit Trust Management, Mermaid House, Puddle Dock, London, EC4 (01-236 8565).

Note the date

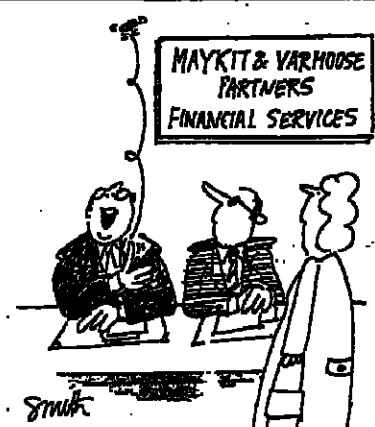
The National Franchise Exhibition will take place at the Kensington Exhibition Centre, Derry Street, London W8, between Friday, October 11, and Sunday, October 13, not the dates quoted in last week's Family Money.

Top of the list

Investment advisers Towry Law have come up with their latest unit trust recommendations. For a portfolio of £10,000 to £20,000 invested for capital growth their unit trust choices are: Allied Asset Value, Fidelity Growth & Income, F & C Overseas Income, Fidelity Managed International, Gartmore Global, M & G International Income, Abbey American Growth, Fidelity American Equity Income, Mercury American Growth, Fidelity Japan, Govett Pacific Income, Perpetual Far East and Mercury European. Proportions to be invested in each area are 30 to 40 per cent in British and international funds, 15 to 25 per cent in North America, 20 to 30 per cent in Japan and the Far East and 15 to 25 per cent in Europe.

Save and hang on

Anyone who has an index-linked Save As You Earn (third issue) plan maturing around now should hang on



It appears that my partner and I can't agree over your loan application, so...

until after December 1 when a 3 per cent supplement will be paid out. The statement of account which holders receive from the Department of National Savings will spell out only the maturity value of the contract and will give no hint of the bonus to come. "We don't advise people of the benefits of holding or redeeming our products. We just spell out the facts," said a National Savings spokesman.

Once a contract has reached its five-year maturity date it will still qualify for the annual supplements. The 3 per cent bonus, which will be paid out on December 1, is based on the value of the contract on November 30 1984. But no index-linked boost will attach to mature contracts unless they are held for a full two years beyond the fifth anniversary. The annual supplements to index-linking are not payable on contracts opened before November 30 1982.

How some couples are paying too much

High-earning married couples should get hold of the latest leaflet, IR13, from their tax office because they may be paying more tax than they should.

The leaflet deals with the Wife's Earnings Election, a concession whereby a married couple can opt to be taxed separately, thereby reducing their joint liability to higher rate tax. Separate taxation should not be confused with separate assessment, under which the total tax bill for the couple remains the same but is shared between the two partners in proportion to their income.

In the current tax year, couples with joint earnings of more than £25,360 could save tax by electing for separate taxation. Out of this total, the wife must have earnings of at least £6,956 for the election to benefit the couple. In addition, the wife's income must be from earnings rather than investment income as the latter is always treated as the income of her spouse for tax purposes.

If a couple opts for separate taxation, the husband loses the married man's allowance and both partners can claim a single person's tax allowance only (£2,205 in 1985-86).

The effect of this is that both partners can have income of up to £18,405 before becoming liable to higher rates of tax. If they remain taxed as a married couple they will start paying higher rates of tax when their joint incomes exceed £21,860.

In other words £14,950 of income which would otherwise be subject to tax at rates of 40 and 45 per cent is taxed at only 30 per cent with corresponding benefits in the higher earnings and tax brackets.

For example, a married couple taxed as a unit with a joint income of £46,000 a year will be paying tax at the top rate of 60 per cent. Taxed separately, their highest rate paid might be as low as 45 per cent if the earnings were evenly split between the two.

Copies of the leaflet IR13, Wife's Earnings Election, are available from local tax offices.

Goldsmiths setting for jewellery

Three years ago The Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths withdrew one of their ancient laws - the tradition that money should not change hands directly at any exhibition or fair held in their magnificent building in the City of London, Goldsmiths Hall.

The breaking of that ruling took place in 1983 at the first of the successful Goldsmith Fairs of Contemporary Jewellery and Silversmithing, now to be an annual event.

Visitors to this year's exhibition, being held from next Monday to Saturday, will have an opportunity again of entering this splendid hall, the mecca of all exhibition areas, to see the latest designs in silver, gold and platinum jewellery, along with the stringing of pearls, and to meet design-makers in person.

It will now be possible to pay for items "over the counter" and either take them away, leave them until the end of the exhibition, or have them delivered or mailed to suit overseas "patrons." Individual orders can be discussed

orders and designs can be discussed and prices quoted.

You can take along any loose stones, precious or semi-precious, and have them set as you wish. Where else can you find such choice, design and price, and obtain professional advice from the craftsman concerned?

Prices of items range from £20 upwards, depending on materials used. There will, however, be some fashion jewellery obtainable at even lower figures. Precious jewellery with high quality gems is, of course, another matter.

About 90 small studios will be represented. The organisers say: "Each designer-maker is granted a place under the condition that they do not employ more than four people and are working full time at their craft. It is one of the finest opportunities to see the best work of its kind in the country and to discuss face to face the purchase of pieces on sale with the actual maker."

A catalogue is available giving the names and addresses of exhibitors, who can be contacted later. It includes the

names of Michael Bolton, Satsu Sato, Sarah Letts, Christopher Bowen, Hamish Aikman, Debby Moxon, Ian Simm and Jane Sarginson, original 1983 exhibitors.

Look out for their initials and assay marks in the future. Michael Bolton's MAB is not to be confused with MB, the mark of Matthew Boulton, the 18th-century silversmith.

The Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths have been assaying silver and gold since 1300. The

Buying can be a bit of a gamble

first date letter appeared in 1478.

Satsu Sato and Sarah Letts specialize in small work in silver and enamel; Christopher Bowen is silversmithing. As a precious jeweller, Hamish Aikman uses lots of gold. Debby Moxon and Ian Simm are fashion jewellers and Jane Sarginson is a high-quality precious jeweller, well known for her pearl jewellery.

With so much talent around, Michael Bolton's entry into "top jewellery" has been

meteoric and unorthodox. He is completely self-taught and became a silversmith in 1970. His work has a strong medieval influence and his existing items of jewellery and silverware are priced between £15 and £2,000. Having taken part for the past three years, Michael Bolton has succeeded in receiving commissions for individual one-off items from patrons who want to purchase something unique. In November he is off to India at the Indian Government's invitation.

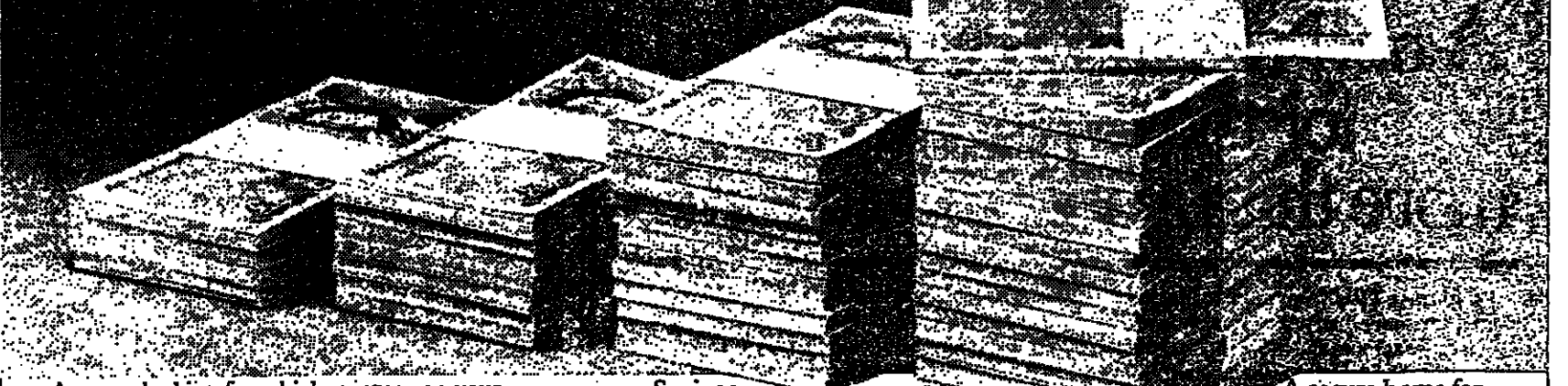
Spotting the "winner" in any field of art, if you are buying as an investment, is always a gamble. There is money, of course, in precious metals and gems alone. But it is the discerning eye of the buyer that recognises the quality craftsman

Arda Lacey
Goldsmith Fair, Goldsmiths Hall, Foster Lane, London EC2, October 7-12, entrance free.



Prices at next week's Contemporary Jewellery and Silversmithing Fair at the Goldsmiths Hall will start at £20 and a number of items will be available over the counter. Exhibits will include these silver rings, above, which contain semi-precious stones, for men and women and cost from £80. The hand-made silver paintbox is £800 and the 4 1/2 in silver and silver gilt wine coaster, right, is available at £350. All items by Michael Bolton.

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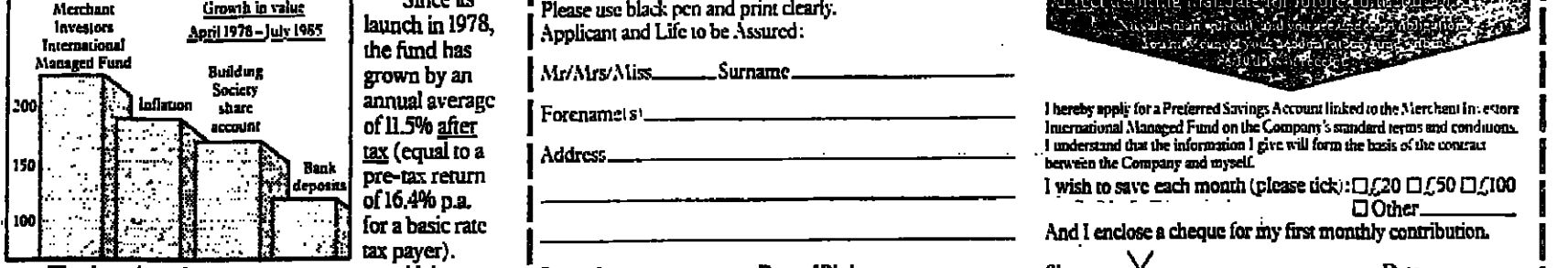
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Be part of Japan's next thrust Invest now in TR Japan Growth Fund

Why Japan?

Japan, with its consensus-controlled economy, has outperformed the US and the UK. It enjoys high growth rates combined with low inflation.

It is the power-house of the booming Pacific region, dominating many industrial sectors and investing heavily in product development and innovation. Over the long-term, Japanese companies have prospered and the stockmarket has flourished.

Why now?

Weakness in both the yen and Japanese blue chips has given investors problems over the last 18 months.

Now, however, the yen appears undervalued and high-quality shares look attractive. Investment in the infrastructure is helping companies with a domestic emphasis. Japan is also poised to benefit from the enormous potential of the Chinese market.

TR Japan Growth Fund will be managed so as to take maximum advantage of the opportunities for capital growth offered by Japanese shares.

Why Touche Remnant?

Touche Remnant is a major, international investment management group with almost 100 years experience. It manages over £2,800 million for institutions and other clients. £300 million of this is already invested in Japan.

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Position	Trust	Performance
3	TR Special Opportunities Fund	+60.9%
5	TR Smaller Companies Fund	+56.8%
8	TR General Growth Fund	+47.1%

Source: Financial Times (Offer to Offer including reinvested income).

Furthermore, five of TR's eight unit trusts appear in the 'Top Five' of their relevant sectors over the last six months. Touche Remnant's track record and a policy of launching funds only in favourable stockmarket conditions should ensure continued success for investors in TR Unit Trusts.

REMEMBER Potential investors should bear in mind that the price of units and the income they generate can go down as well as up.

We strongly recommend that investors should consult their investment adviser, if any, before taking action.

HOW TO INVEST To invest in TR Japan Growth Fund, please complete and return the coupon below. Alternatively you may telephone your instructions to the Manager.

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The Company manufactures and distributes low voltage lighting products featuring quality design and having considerable advantages over conventional lighting, including energy saving.

Hazrods, Bass Charrington, British Home Stores, Gateway Building Society and the British Airports Authority are amongst the numerous organisations which have installed Hitech products.

BES relief for the current tax year should be obtained shortly after the allotment of shares.

The subscription list will open at 10.00 am on Friday, 11th October 1985 and may be closed at any time thereafter. A copy of the prospectus may be obtained by writing to or telephoning the Sponsors.

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How the portfolio works
Not less than 95% of your capital will be invested in four successful, high yielding unit trusts - designed to provide a continuing stream of income throughout the year. And each is professionally managed by Tyndall - one of the industry's most consistent performers.

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All investments attract a bonus: 1% up to £20,000, 1.12% in excess of this sum.

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By spreading your investment in some 260 companies, Tyndall not only minimises risks but gives you the prospect of real capital growth. Equally, as dividends increase, more money will be transferred to your Account to produce an increasing monthly income.

So you should be able to look forward to real growth of capital and income, remembering that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

An important loan facility

As Tyndall's new Monthly Income Portfolio is designed for those with substantial sums to invest for the long term, we recognise that an unexpected emergency can create the need for immediate access to capital.

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Through Tyndall & Co. you can have a loan of up to 67% of your invested capital without affecting your investments.

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ALLIED DUNBAR THE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT GROUP

What your shopping basket tells you

INFLATION

The inflation rate is on the way down. Retail price inflation, 7 per cent in May and June, dropped to 6.9 per cent in July and 6.2 per cent last month. Figures due next week are expected to show it down still further and forecasters expect a rate of 3 or 4 per cent next year. But what does this mean? How does the Government record inflation, and is it likely to match your own cost of living increase?

The general index of retail prices, more usually known as the retail price index or RPI, is produced monthly by the Department of Employment.

On the Tuesday nearest the middle of every month, an official from the local unemployment benefit office in more than 200 towns goes around the supermarkets, shops, department stores, garages, hairdressers, shoe repairers and the rest, meticulously recording prices.

A total of more than 130,000 different prices around the country are dispatched to the department's statistical nerve centre and the index is painstakingly compiled.

The RPI is a weighted average of the many and varied price movements in the economy, the weights derived from the annual Family Expenditure Survey. Every year, more than 7,000 households complete detailed questionnaires setting out on what they spend their income.

From the information provided in the Family Expenditure Survey the department assembles a typical shopping basket on the basis of which the RPI is calculated.

Before examining that basket, it is worth underlining that, while shopping basket is convenient shorthand for the composition of the index, many of the items of household spending that go into the calculation of inflation have nothing to do with shopping at all.

The "retail" in retail price index is somewhat confusing, given that it includes mortgage payments, rates, electricity and gas bills, transport and so on. In fact, only about half of the items that go to make up the RPI are goods bought in the shops.

According to the weights in the RPI, 19 per cent of the average family's spending goes on food, 7.5 per cent on alcoholic drink, 3.7 per cent on cigarettes and tobacco, 15.3 per cent on housing, 6.5 per cent on fuel and light, 6.5 per cent on furniture and household appliances, 7.5 per cent on clothing and footwear, 15.6 per cent on transport and vehicles, 7.7 per cent on so-called miscellaneous goods, including books, newspapers and toiletries, 6.2 per cent on such services as postage and telephones, and 4.5 per cent on meals out.

There is, of course, no such family as the average. Indeed, in the case of the RPI's mythical average family it is virtually impossible. The statisticians have to include in the index mortgage payments - with the mortgage rate used in the calculation being the weighted



To housewives doing the shopping inflation is kinder

average of the rates charged by the top 20 building societies.

They also have to include rents. The respective weights are 4.6 per cent for mortgage payments and 3.1 per cent for rents, implying that if the average family did exist, it would be both buying and renting the home.

There is, of course, no average family

It is relatively easy to get from an individual price change to its effect on the index. Say, perhaps as a result of Budget changes in excise duty, all alcoholic drink goes up by 10 per cent in price. We know that the weight of drink in the RPI is 7.5 per cent, so a 10 per cent increase adds 0.75 per cent to the index.

A 1 percentage point cut in mortgage rates reduces it by about 0.25.

In calculating the RPI weights, the department's statisticians exclude two categories of evidence from the Family Expenditure Survey. The spending patterns of well-off households - defined as those where

the head has a gross income of more than £350 a week - and pensioner households are not included in the weights.

Thus, if you are in either of these categories it should be no surprise if movements in the RPI do not match your own experience of changes in living costs. Pensioners do have their own separate pensioner household indices, published monthly in the department's *Employment Gazette*.

In general, these have moved more or less in line with the overall RPI, although occasionally there are quite significant month-to-month changes. The well-off do not get their own price index.

The level of the retail price index in August was 367.7, and the base for the index is January 15, 1974 = 100. In other words, the cost of living now is roughly 3.7 times or 267.7 per cent up on its level 11 years ago.

Within the index, however, there are quite wide variations over the period, perhaps providing a pointer on how one could have beaten or at least lessened the effects of inflation.

Books only have a 0.4 per cent weight in the RPI but they

have recorded the biggest price rise, and are currently 513 per cent up on their 1974 level. Other big increases have been recorded by newspapers, up 447 per cent, cigarettes, up 441 per cent, rules up 440 per cent, and tea up 423 per cent.

The overall category with the largest increase is fuel and light, up 403 per cent since 1974, and within this oil for domestic heating has risen in price by a staggering 586 per cent.

At the other end of the scale, some things, by these standards, have gone up quite modestly in price. Women's outer clothing is now only 62 per cent up in price on 1974, men's clothing is now only 62 per cent up in price on 1974, men's clothing is slightly bigger, 123 per cent.

According to the August RPI, it would have been rather cheaper to rent than to buy one's house during the past 11 years - rental costs have risen 311 per cent, mortgage payments by 380 per cent. However, this comparison is greatly affected by short-term changes in the mortgage rate.

There are two common misconceptions about inflation. Many people believe that a falling rate of inflation means

New method is being considered

that prices are dropping. It does not - even if inflation falls to a "respectable" 3 per cent, this still means that prices on average double every 13½ years.

Secondly, within an overall inflation rate, particularly a low one, there will be price falls as well as rises. And yet, human nature being what it is, increases in prices tend to register.

Finally, inflation may not be measured in the current way for very long. A committee set up by the Department of Employment will report early next year on how, if at all, housing costs should be included in the RPI.

David Smith
Economics Correspondent

Strong tip for bonds from brokers

Buy bonds - that is the message from stockbrokers Capel-Cure Myers in its latest client briefing. "Whatever else may or may not be happening, the United States economy has slowed down and this makes a general worldwide fall in interest rates very probable," it says.

"The dollar is still overvalued, even after the recent spectacular fall - as is sterling. The currencies most likely to appreciate are the Deutschmark and the yen and our view is that bonds denominated in these currencies could outperform equities in general over the next six to 12 months."

Among Capel-Cure Myers' recommendations are the Republic of Austria 7 per cent redeemable 1995. This is a European issue denominated in Japanese yen and minimum investment is £6,000. Also recommended are World Bank 6.4 per cent redeemable 1995 and Eurofima 6½ per cent redeemable 1995 - both with a minimum investment of £6,000.

Among the Deutschmark bonds tipped are Republic of Germany 7 per cent redeemable 1995, Deutsche Bundespost 7 per cent redeemable 1997 and Republic of Germany 6½ per cent redeemable 1995. All have minimum investment of £2,500.

All the bonds mentioned pay an annual dividend with the exception of World Bank 6.4 per cent which has a half-yearly dividend payment.

For investors whose portfolios are not large enough to cope with the minimum investments, Capel-Cure Myers is recommending Save & Prosper's Deutschmark and yen bond funds where the minimum investment is about £1,500 in each case.

Help with your children's sums

University £400?
School fees £100?
Uniform and sports equipment £950
Extra tuition £800 say
Piano lessons £2,250
TOTAL (approx) £1,200
Mum's Grant £1,200
Need to find £1,050

James Day School
School fees £1,740
(£580 per term)
Uniform and sports equipment £300?
Extra tuition £120?
Piano lessons £200
TOTAL (approx) £2,200

You're thinking of private education for your youngest child, and it's very much on the cards that his elder brother and sister will be going to college in a few years' time.

Add the cost of school fees to the price of uniforms, sports equipment, music lessons, books and lodgings, multiply by the number of years they are likely to be in full time education and subtract from the family budget.

Now, given that, in the last year alone independent school fees rose by 7%, and that even the minimum grant has recently been abolished, can you calculate just how financially punishing that education could prove?

With the cost of further education continuing to spiral, even if they've got what it takes to go on to college or to university, have you got what it takes to send them there?

Clearly, only by making provision at the earliest possible opportunity can you hope to avoid the financial shock of meeting education

fees. But planning for the future is not easy when your needs and resources are certain to change.

That's why Allied Dunbar, the leading name in the field of financial management, have come up with the Schools and College Programme, a simple yet highly flexible way of meeting education expenses as and when they arise.

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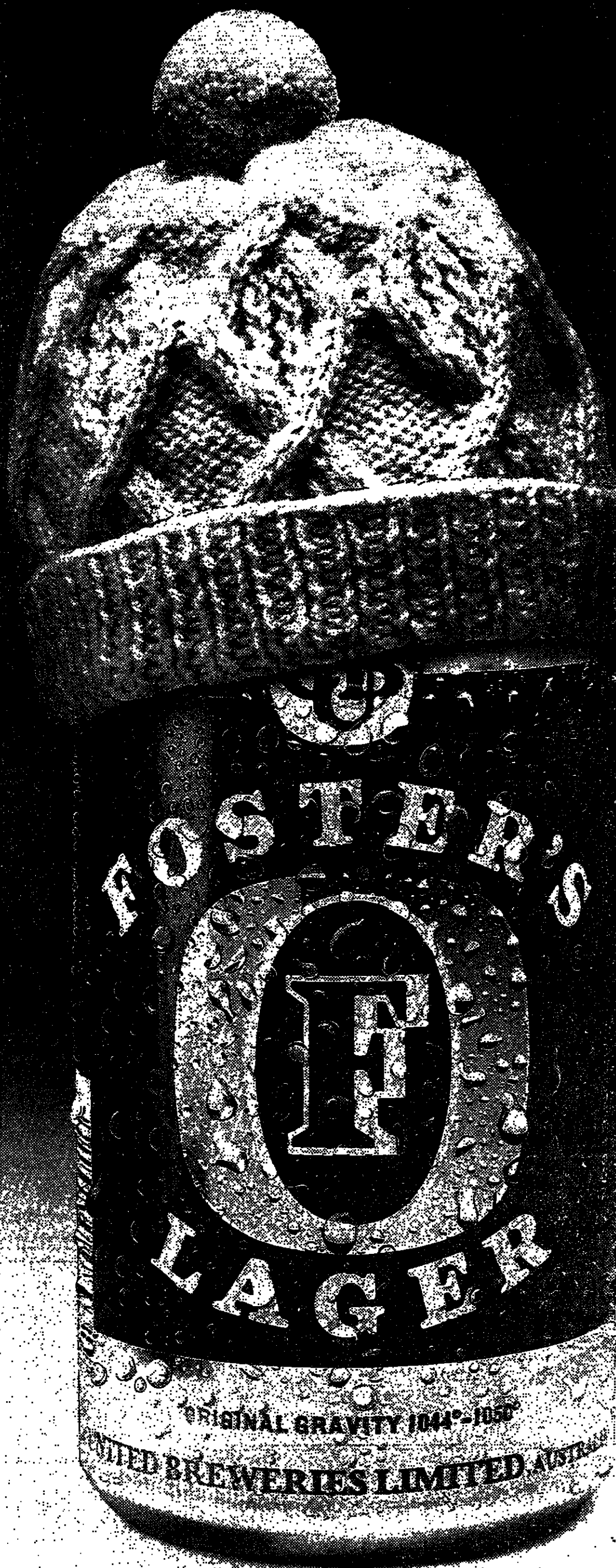
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In Sloane Square we're famous for tubes. In Times Square our reputation's more woolly.

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FAMILY MONEY/4

Home owners could take duke's lead

Owners of flats and houses who are eligible to buy the freehold of their leasehold property under the 1967 Leasehold Reform Act should waste no time in putting in their application for enfranchisement.

A case currently going through the European Court in Strasbourg could have far-reaching effects on these homeowners.

Last week the richest man in Britain, the Duke of Westminster, claimed he had lost £2.5 million on the sale of 80 properties in Belgravia, London.

The duke and the fellow trustees of the Grosvenor Estate are the largest private landlords in London. They alleged that under the terms of the 1967 Leasehold Reform Act (as amended) they had been forced to sell freeholds to leasees at knock down prices.

When a lease comes to an end, technically everything - the land and the

house - revert to the freeholder, and the leaseholder has nothing. Many found it hard to accept that a house owner should be deprived of his home.

The Act was passed to enable a leaseholder who "qualified" under the Act to buy his freehold, that is, to enfranchise. It was, in fact, a form of private compulsory purchase. If the leaseholder qualified then the original freeholder had no choice but to sell at a price which the Act regulated.

In Strasbourg the duke argued that the compulsory sale of properties under the Act was in breach of the European Human Rights Convention, which provides that "no one should be deprived of his possessions except in the public interest".

The Government claimed that the Act, which incidentally was introduced by a Labour administration, had been fully debated at the time it was passed, and

came within the scope of the exception of "public interest".

If the duke wins his case the Government could have to repeal or amend the legislation. The duke himself has asked for "fair compensation", and hundreds of other freeholders who have been forced to sell off their properties at below market price could follow suit.

If you are a leaseholder, you should put in your application to enfranchise as soon as possible, as the court's decision is expected at the beginning of next year.

The Government has a great deal at stake in Strasbourg. However, it may be feeling quite confident. Before the case reached the court it had already been debated at the European Commission of Human Rights, which had decided unanimously that the legislation did not breach the convention.

SE

There's a yen for prices

UNIT TRUSTS

Currencies were once again to the fore last month. The looming threat of American protectionism brought the world's leading finance ministers scurrying to Washington to try to agree a concerted policy to bring down the dollar, while strengthening key European currencies and the Japanese yen.

Dollar has slipped against the pound

Initially, the programme appears to be working. During the past 10 days, the dollar has weakened by 10 per cent against both the yen and the Deutschmark. It has also lost ground against the pound. That, of course, does not help British exports. But better news for UK industry is the lower pound compared to continental currencies and particularly the yen.

Currency changes, then, have played a major part in unit trust price movements during the past month. This is particularly true of the Japanese sector. The

Tokyo New Stock Exchange index was a mere 0.8 per cent higher over September, but when exchange rate movements are taken into account, the rise is transformed into a 10 per cent jump.

All of the unit trust industry's 46 funds specializing in Japan marked up offer price increases during September. Gartmore Japan came off best with a 17 per cent improvement. Other high flyers were Henderson Japan Special Situations and Target Japan, which were both more than 15 per cent up on the month.

In Europe, currencies and stockmarkets worked more in unison. The German Commerzbank index ended the month at a new peak, while the Belgian, Danish, Italian, Norwegian and Swiss stock market indices all touched a new high point for the year.

Front runner in this sector was the recently launched LAS European fund, run by The Life Association of Scotland, which started its record with a 10 per cent gain over its first month. Oppenheimer European Growth registered a 9 per cent rise, which now moves it into

fourth position during the year so far.

With three-quarters of the year now completed, it certainly looks as though Europe has been the area to back during 1985. Ten of the first 30 unit trusts in this year's league tables are invested in the continental bourses.

Worries about the effect of the high dollar and America's slackening economic growth have been a damper on US invested

High-tech portfolios fared badly

funds during the past four weeks. Only Sun Life American out of nearly 100 trusts investing across the Atlantic managed an offer price increase. At the other extreme, several special situations and high technology portfolios fared badly. Target Technology tumbled 9 per cent while G. T. Technology & General was more than 11 per cent down.

On the home front, the absence of any further base rate cuts have disappointed the market. Investors also appreciate that the anticipated currency

TOP TEN UNIT TRUSTS

Value of £100 invested over nine months to October 1, 1985, offer to offer, net income reinvested

Source: Planned Savings

FS Balanced Growth	156.2	1
TR Special Opportunities	142.8	2
Temple Bar Recovery	140.8	3
Oppenheimer European Grth	140.7	4
Holborn UK Growth	138.4	5
Simon & Coates Special Sits	136.2	6
County Bank Financial	135.6	7
Murray European	134.8	8
Oppenheimer UK Growth	132.2	9
Vanguard Special Sits	131.5	10

changes are going to help our exports to America or the translated dollar profits of our international operating companies.

Against this gloomy scenario, the FT Actuaries All Share index drifted lower in September, although there has been a welcome and sharp revival in recent days. The best performing fund in the domestic sectors during the last four weeks was Lazard Smaller Companies which showed a 17 per cent jump. Gartmore British provided the closest competition with a 13 per cent increase.

Mike Hocking

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Norman Riddell's view: "A superb record"

"One thing that has really impressed me as a unit trust manager is the superb overall record of income funds. Of the £17 billion that UK investors have put into unit trusts, nearly a third is in this type of fund. Britannia has done very well with UK income funds, and now we are pleased to offer you the greater opportunity and security of an international spread of investments for income."

Norman Riddell
UK Unit Trust Manager

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Britannia Unit Trust Managers Limited is part of the Britannia Arrow Group, which manages £4,800 million worldwide on behalf of 350,000 investors.

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Please remember that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

To invest now, (minimum £500) simply complete the form below:

EARLY INVESTOR BONUS up to 2%
For applications received by Monday, 21st October, 1985, on investments of £1,000 or more, a bonus of 1% is offered. Investments of £10,000 and over qualify for a 2% bonus.

To: Britannia Unit Trust Managers Ltd., 74/78 Finsbury Pavement, London EC2A 4JD. Telephone: 01-588 2777

I/We wish to invest (minimum £500) in the Britannia International High Income Trust at the offer price ruling on the day of receipt of my cheque. I/We understand that the 1% 2% bonus as applicable will be given in the form of extra units. A cheque is enclosed, made payable to Britannia Unit Trust Managers Limited.

SURNAME

FIRST NAMES (in full)

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

Please tick box if you are already a Britannia unit trust investor ☐

SIGNATURE

DATE

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- a better chance of achieving the rising income you seek;
- reduced risk because the fund's investments will be widely diversified;
- the opportunity for substantial capital growth from increasing stock and share values.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Acknowledgement will be sent and certificates issued within 42 days. Unit prices and yields are published daily in leading national newspapers. Units can be sold back to the Managers at not less than the current bid price calculated in a formula approved by the Department of Trade. An initial management charge of 1.25% on the assets (equivalent to 0.7% of the issue price) is included in the price of units and a service charge at an annual rate of 1% (+ VAT) on the value of the Trust is deducted from the Trust's gross income, although the Trust Decree allows a maximum annual charge of 2% (+ VAT). The first distribution is scheduled for 15th June 1986. The Trust is managed by Britannia Unit Trust Managers Limited, Registered Office: 80 Coleman Street, London EC2A 4JD. Telephone: 01-588 2777. Remuneration is payable in qualified intermediaries and rates are available on request. This offer is not applicable to residents of Eire. Fluctuations in exchange rates may affect the performance of the Trust in both income and capital growth terms. The Managers will seek to protect the investments of the Trust from any adverse influence of currency movements.

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FAMILY MONEY/6

Three factors that decide dividends

The payment of dividends by private companies has been unfashionable for some time. In the years when the investment income surcharge still existed, it made better sense to pay a bonus as earned income. However, according to accountants Dearden Farrow, "three new factors have combined to alter the equation substantially, if not decisively".

In a new booklet, *To Pay or Not To Pay*, Dearden Farrow analyses the pros and cons of dividends versus other forms of remuneration. Higher employers' National Insurance contributions, which come into effect this week, the abolition of the investment income surcharge and

the reduction of corporation tax rates for small companies to 30 per cent have altered the situation. "The effect has been to make the decision more evenly balanced and not dependent on tax factors," says the booklet.

The advantages of declaring a dividend and of paying extra remuneration are both spelled out in detail, with their applications to companies of all sizes.

Copies of *To Pay or Not To Pay* are available from the publications department, Dearden Farrow, 1 Serjeants' Inn, London EC4Y 1JD. (01-353 2000).

LB

Top earners' firms hit by NI

MONDAY sees two important changes in the operation of the National Insurance contribution system. While there will be some small reductions in the contribution burden - for both employers and employees - in respect of low-paid employees, the major effects could be costly indeed for companies employing people who earn more than the present upper earnings limit of £265 per week, or £13,780 a year.

Although the immediate burden falls to the employer, this could in the long run have a detrimental effect on high salary

bill remains the same, for both employee and employer. In other words, up to now the more you earned, the less, proportionately speaking, you or your employer had to pay in National Insurance contributions.

As the table shows, all that will change from Monday. Basically, the main changes are that, for lower-paid employees, both their and their employers' contributions are reduced.

An employee earning more than £265 a week still need pay only 9 per cent of £265 in contributions, but the employer will be required to contribute to the National Insurance fund at the rate of 10.45 per cent no matter how high the employee's earnings.

The upper earnings limit has been removed in respect of the employer's contribution liability, and this could result in a huge increase in the costs of employment - particularly in industries with high average earnings.

In the long run of course, these changes might reduce the chances of those earning less

NAT'NS CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OCT 6 (Non-contracted-out schemes)		
Weekly wages	Employee	Employer
Less than £26.50	5%	5%
£26.50-£54.99	5%	7%
£55-£89.99	5%	9%
£90-£129.99	5%	10.45%
£130-£264.99	9%	10.45%
£265 and above (no upper limit)	9% (maximum)	10.45% (of total)

than £265 per week, from securing significant salary increases.

For example, under existing rules, an employee earning £35,000 a year would cost the employer £1,440 a year in National Insurance contributions. From next week, that cost will rise to £3,657.50.

It may be possible, however, to mitigate some of these or future costs. It would be as well for employers as well as employees to be aware of such possibilities. Future salary negotiations may well have to be couched in terms of "benefits in kind".

For example, the provision of a company car, of accommodation, holidays, school fees for

dependants, or employee share incentive schemes, do not at the moment attract any National Insurance liability. At the same time, all these non-salary benefits are of considerable value to the employee.

Whereas previously salary negotiations, or promotion incentives, have taken the form of an extra £500 to £1,000 per year, one can now envisage future discussions concentrating on perks such as a company car or rent-free accommodation.

Time was when the tax inspector was the man to be avoided. It seems the National Insurance collector may soon gain a similar reputation.

Linda Avery

YOU CAN HAVE A CAR AND 10 WEEKS HOLIDAY BUT PLEASE DON'T ASK FOR MORE THAN £265 A WEEK...



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VALUABLE BONUS OF 1% Gresham will add 1% to your initial investment if you reply before 30 Nov 1985. For an investment of £10,000 this could be £100.

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*The average Annual Growth of 20.1% in the Gresham/Framlington Income Trust Fund between 30th June 1980 and 30th June 1985 was worth 28,756.4% to a basic rate taxpayer or even more to a higher rate taxpayer. Gresham Unit Assurance Ltd, 2-6 Prince of Wales Road, Bournemouth BH4 9HD (01-202) 767655

APPLICATION FORM

To: Gresham, FREEPOST, Bournemouth BH4 9BR. Please send me, with no obligation whatsoever, details of the Capital Investment Bond. I understand that no salesman will call.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Name of investment advisor (if any) _____ 9017

Amount you wish to invest (minimum £1000) £ _____ Gresham Unit Assurance Ltd, 2-6 Prince of Wales Road, Bournemouth BH4 9HD (01-202) 767655

GRESHAM / FRAMLINGTON

Employment costs could go soaring

earnings, and on those of us who aspire to be so.

Under the present system Class 1 contributions (non-contracted-out) are in effect a levy of 9 per cent on employees' earnings above £35.49 per week, up to a maximum of £265 per week. The employer pays a levy of 10.45 per cent. For those earning beyond £265 the cash

Livewire help for jobless

INCENTIVES

A way off the dole queue or out of a dull job for anyone between the ages of 16 and 25 is available with the nationwide launch of a scheme called Livewire.

The scheme has operated in some parts of the country, including Scotland, for more than two years and has proved a conspicuous success. The idea is to encourage young people to work for themselves and to give them the advice they need to do it.

All it requires from an applicant is an idea. The application form simply asks what work the applicant intends to do and what the market for his idea is. It does not matter whether it is a proposal to start up a sophisticated high-tech business or a local window-cleaning operation - all applications will get a positive response.

Once the organizers have received the application they put the budding entrepreneur in touch with a local "adviser" - a volunteer with a knowledge of business. The adviser will provide encouragement, assistance and practical and technical advice on starting up a business.

however small. This is the heart of the scheme.

"We might, for example, get an application from someone wanting to start up a window-cleaning business," says David Budge, a spokesman for the scheme's main sponsors, Shell UK.

"On the form he only has to say that his idea is window cleaning and that it will find a ready clientele among the local housewives. We put him on to an adviser who will then help him work out the expenses and income - the cashflow - involved in the plan. These are things the average youngster knows nothing about and needs help with."

Job centres have application forms

When this is sorted out the applicant is ready to approach a bank, enterprise agency, local authority or some other appropriate institution for capital to start his business. The adviser helps in the search for funding, but the Livewire scheme does not provide loans itself.

"Getting the funding is the crunch," says Mr Budge. "There is certainly discrimination against young people on this sort of thing, so having the backing of expert advice can be crucial."

Once the money has been obtained and the business started, the adviser's services can still be retained indefinitely. Needless to say, the advice costs nothing.

of all the applicants make it all

Naturally, only a proportion of the way to setting up a business.

"On earlier experience we expect around 5,000 people making it all the way this year," says Mr Budge. "In the regional schemes the success has been very patchy. In Scotland between 10 and 15 per cent of applications have got as far as starting their own business."

"But the percentage is higher in Northern Ireland and is very good in northern England, with a 30 per cent success rate."

Even if a young person, having discussed the practicalities of the idea with an adviser, concludes that it is too complicated or too much work, the exercise has not been wasted. The Livewire organizers believe. "At least they will have learned something for the next time they have an idea," Mr Budge points out.

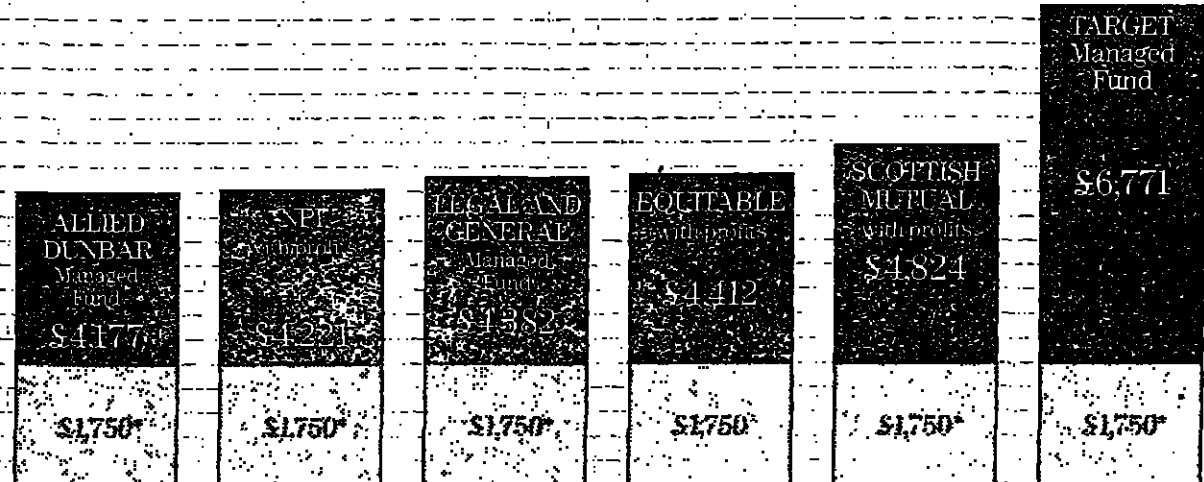
For those who succeed, there is the prospect of prizes at the end of the year. Shell is handing out awards worth £50,000 to people with the best ideas and the most enthusiasm.

The scheme officially ends in May and there is a chance it will not be renewed next year, as a swift application is probably advisable. Application forms are available from job centres, libraries, community centres, schools and other places where the scheme is being advertised by poster.

Alternatively, applicants can obtain forms by writing to Livewire, Freeport, Newton Mearns, Glasgow G77 5BR.

Richard Thomson

If you're about to invest in a pension plan make sure it's the best on the market.



Pension Plan Results Value of Fund over 5 years assuming 5 annual premiums of £500 each.

*Amount Invested £1,750 (Following tax relief at 20% p.a.) Source: Money Magazine - February 1985

"Target soars head and shoulders above all rivals in the pensions field coming, once again, top of the performance league table."

The Times - Saturday 25th January 1985

"There is no doubt that investors who had the fore-sight or luck to put money in the Target Managed Fund deserve a large dose of self-congratulation."

Executive Personnel 1984 (Published by the Financial Times)

"One Company, Target Life, can actually boast an investment record that is so superior that it can afford to pay twice the pension of some of the others."

Target stole a march on its rivals, because the Managed Fund holds investments directly rather than putting money into other unit-linked funds within the group."

The Daily Telegraph - Saturday 12th May 1984

"The top cash fund for retirement at age 65 comes from Target Life's Managed Fund with a spectacularly good figure. This is clearly no fluke result since the same fund swept the honours board in our October 1982 survey."

Money Magazine - June 1984

"Indeed the best performing contract in the survey was linked to Target's Managed Fund."

The Daily Telegraph - Saturday 14th December 1983

If you're self-employed or the director of a private company, you'll know all about the tax advantages of investing in a pension plan.

Your biggest problem will be selecting the best from the rest.

Obviously, the most important factor will be the size of your pension fund when you retire.

All too often, this decision is taken as a result of comparing projected growth figures, whereas the only realistic basis for comparison is achieved growth.

The table above compares the actual results of an investment in the Target Personal Pension Plan - linked to the Target Managed Pension Fund - with three leading with profits policies and two other unit linked plans invested in managed funds.

What it doesn't show, however, is that the Target plan has out-performed all other personal pension plans over the last five years.

What's more, only the Target plan provides you with a guaranteed loanback facility* enabling you to draw on your investment whenever you like, with no additional management charges.

*Subject to level of premium and acceptable security.

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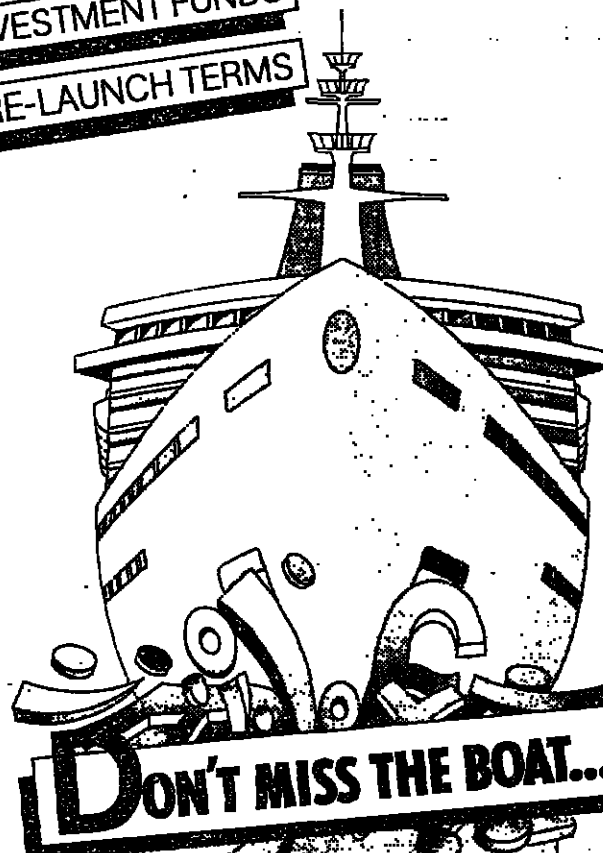
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T1/05/10

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If you have at least £1,000 to invest and want to learn more about how you can secure a stake in this exciting launch, please complete the form opposite.

Act now - don't miss the boat.

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Address _____

Telephone _____

My usual financial adviser is:

Name _____

Town _____

Return to:

Marketing Dept., UK Provident,

Freeport, Salisbury SP1 3BR.

TMS



Success you can share

FAMILY MONEY/7

Bargain deals in the fight for private clients

STOCKBROKER UNIT TRUSTS

Value of £100 invested over 12 months to October 1, 1985, offer to offer, net income reinvested

Stockbroker and unit trust	Value	Position out of 813 funds
1. Henry Cooke Lumsden Arkwright Fund	143.40	11th
2. Vickers de Costa Bridge Amer. & Gen. Bridge Capital Bridge Income Bridge Internat.	100.20 100.50 132.10 102.20	524th 518th 59th 495th
3. Buckmaster & Moore General Income International Smaller Cos.	118.80 115.20 95.60 95.40	241st 289th 574th 577th
4. James Capel JC Capital Fund JC Income Fund JCN American Fund	127.50 132.30 93.90	97th 56th 567th
5. Greene & Co. Discretionary Unit Fund	111.40	350th
6. Fielding Newson-Smith Fielding Fund Fielding American & Gen. Fielding Income	125.50 101.80 122.00	129th 499th 181st
7. Laurence Prust Framlington Amer. & Gen. Framlington Amer. Turnaround Fram. Capital Fram. Convertible Fram. Ex. Income Fram. Income Fram. Internat. Growth Fram. Recovery	103.50 96.80 139.30 115.80 128.80 122.80 93.20 120.40	480th 558th 29th 282nd 105th 168th 592nd 207th
8. Grievason Grant Barrington Gen. Barrington Gilt Barrington High Yield Barrington Small Cos. Barrington European Barrington N. Amer. Barrington Pacific	116.50 107.80 122.30 127.50 124.80 95.50 92.60	271st 425th 178th 96th 140th 619th 599th
9. Laing & Crutshank L & C Income Fund L & C International & General Glen Capital Glen Income	126.00 98.10 103.50 116.50	121st 627th 475th 266th
10. Sheppards & Chase Mayflower Gen. Units Mayflower Income Mayflower Internat.	118.80 122.80 103.90	238th 170th 476th

Statistics courtesy of Planned Savings.

STOCKBROKERS

British Telecom's privatization and the "Big Bang" have focused the minds of stockbrokers on private clients as never before. The scrapping of minimum commissions and opening of the Stock Exchange to outsiders, which constitutes the "Big Bang" now scheduled for October 1986, means companies which relied almost exclusively on institutional business before are busy wooing the small investor.

Several big London brokers, whose high overheads make small private client business expensive, have nevertheless developed new services specifically aimed at private clients. The provincial brokers, whose bread and butter business has

reached its peak of both worlds, Parsons, the Scottish stockbroker, has sold 20 per cent of itself to James Capel, the big institutional broker whose research has been top of the Continental Illinois/Exel poll for the past six years and another 20 per cent to PostTel, the Post Office and Telecom pension fund.

Parsons' clients now have access to James Capel's research as well as Parsons' own research, mainly into Scottish companies. They are not charged for this service.

Parsons' pricing structure for dealing is quite complicated with different minimums for buying and selling and for equities and gilts. The minimum for buying equities is £12, on deals between £100 and £727 where the Stock Exchange minimum of 1.65 per cent comes in to play. The minimum for selling is £8 on deals from £100 to £300 and £12 for deals from £300 to £727. Gilts cost a minimum of £9 to buy up to £300 worth and £12 above £300. The minimum for selling is £7 for £100 to £300 worth and £10 over £300.

The best of both worlds

always been private clients, are as keen as ever to take on more. They too are expanding their services.

Many now have a financial services arm in-house, which gives pension, tax, insurance, and other financial planning advice. They are also expanding their research or information capability. Hanson, for example, the six branch firm in Yorkshire and Lancashire, used to sell, but people should be discouraged from making small purchases.

Stock Beech charges £8 on a purchase below £20, but gives a sale free of commission. From £21 to £450 it costs £10 a purchase and £8 a sale, and above £450 it is £12 for sale and purchase until the 1.65 per cent level.

Brokers can be flexible about very small deals. If a client wanted to buy £2,000 of one stock and sell £50 of war loan, he would get the war loan bargain commission free, Parsons said.

Brokers have also been

offering special deals for private investors, which have brought in a flood of new clients and opened prospects of untapped areas of new business. Hanson, for example, was charging £4 for small all-time and £7 for Britoil, Campbell Neill, the Scottish stockbroker who has linked up with Hoare Govett and has access to its research, was charging between £6 and £8 on partly-paid privatizations.

Some of the big London brokers have developed new services to attract the private client. One of the most recent of such ventures is Quilter Goodson's Money Centre in Debenhams in Oxford Street, which has so far proved a great success.

Quilter offers a dealing

Range of services to increase

service, with a minimum commission of £15 unless the deal is worth less than £75 when the charge is reduced, sells unit trusts, has a bureau de change and will put together a model portfolio for a small charge which will be waived if the client deals on the advice.

It also offers concessionary rates on BT and Britoil.

Quilter, in common with most brokers, will run a discretionary portfolio for a client with a minimum of £25,000. Several big London brokers have higher minimums, although some will start with less and provincial brokers tend to accept smaller portfolios. Stock Beech will run a discretionary account from £10,000 and Parsons from £20,000.

Other recent innovations include Scrimgeour Vickers tie-up with the Nottingham Building Society's Homelink home banking service. Anyone who has Nottingham's service has free access to Scrimgeour

Vickers research, which is fed into Prosiel.

Clients can deal through the television screen, transferring money electronically if buying, or Scrimgeour can transfer money electronically to their account if selling. The smallest bargain allowed is £300 and minimum commission is £15.

Phillips & Drew has introduced a share service linked to its high interest cheque account. The service is a no frills dealing service conducted over the telephone. The client gives his account number and buying or selling order and the money is then transferred in or out of his account with Phillips & Drew Trust. Minimum commissions are £10 on a sale and £20 on a purchase.

Hoare Govett's Dealercall is another such no frills telephone dealing service. The minimum bargain accepted is £750 and is charged at the Stock Exchange's lowest rate of 1.65 per cent, making it cheaper than Phillips & Drew for buying equities worth less than about £1,200.

As Big Bang approaches the range of services offered by stockbrokers can be expected to increase.

Alison Eadie

17.15%

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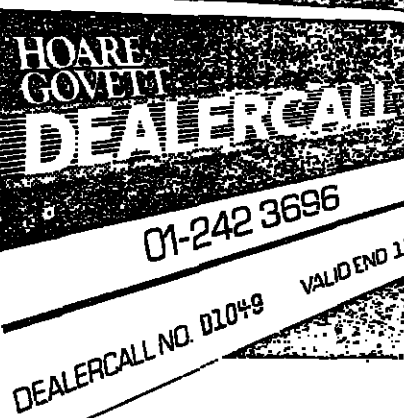
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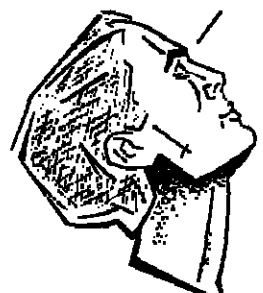
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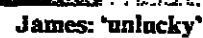
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'Fed up' James decides to try his luck again in US school



YACHTING

Casualties reported

The Whitbread Round the World race had its first casualties yesterday with one crewman falling over the side of the British maxi yacht *Nordesta* Data GB, while another aboard the Spanish entry *Fortuna* Light suffered a bad leg injury that will leave him incapacitated for several days (Barry Pickthall writes).

Bob Salmon, skipper of *Nordesta* Data GB, reported that they soon had their man back on board, but lost a genoa and broke two stanchions in the incident. The Belgian yacht *Rucanor* *Tristar* also reported damage, this time to its radio antennae, and can now only communicate over a short range.

● The Sports Council's national sailing centre, based at Cowes, is of light, for 17 years, may be on the move. In a bid to increase support for the British sailing team, the centre's management committee is recommending relocation to mainland site on the south coast.

More yachting, page 3

Sports Commentary

David Miller

When you are past 50, younger people begin to regard you as ancient; if not actually edging towards senility, at least suffering from a memory which is suspiciously subjective. It is difficult, therefore, to try to persuade anyone under 30 on the morning when Manchester United believe they are about to open 11 successive victories by Spurs in 1960, that Spurs were superior to much of what we see nowadays.

Comparisons are said to be odious. The present United team is laudably pushing the emphasis on to attack, just as United have always done. Taylor, Charlton and Pegg, or that marvellous '48 side led by Carey.

Today, the appeal of Robson, Strachan, Hughes and Olsen fulfils the most demanding requirement of any fine team: supporters of other teams clamour to see them. It is not the fault of Asherson's side that the quality of the opposition is arguably largely inferior to those overcome by Spurs under Nicholson.

United on verge of rare achievement

Everyone in football must be grateful that United are on the verge of equalling, or surpassing, a rare achievement, because the game has never been more in need of players to set standards and generate discussion.

It is argued, by those putting the case for the present United side, that Spurs were confronted by less rigorous defensive systems. That is true, but what filled grounds to capacity up and down the country in 1960-61 was Tottenham's unrivalled style. It was not, say, simply that Jones could regularly beat his full back, but that repeatedly he would go past two and three defenders, in an era when individual tackling was undoubtedly better.

It is probably, I think, that Stapleton is a more skilful centre forward than Smith, yet given a half sight of goal, it is likely that with head or feet Smith was the more potent scorer. And consider some of the defenders overcome by Spurs in those first 11 matches, such as Kelsey and Docherty of Arsenal, Banks and McIntosh of Leicester.

Where Spurs were superior, I would say at this distance, was in variety. Because there was less fear of failure, players were prepared to risk more in what they attempted. Watching the shuffling Blanchflower trying to observe a footballer carrying round the equivalent of a dozen golf clubs, for he could make the ball do almost anything: dip, float, swerve, skid, a wider range of skill than is possessed even by Hoddle.

We could see White switch the ball from one foot to another two or three times in the split seconds during which he would gently evade a tackle, while Mackay, besides being someone to make Remi Moses seem gentle, was an astonishing volleyer of the ball with either foot.

I would not particularly wish to say Spurs were better than United, just that 20 years on from now I suspect the memory of their sheer beauty of movement will remain the more indelible.

NBC established new principles

Now that the NBC network has won the exclusive US television rights for the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul, it will be speculated for the next three years whether the South Koreans will have gained or lost by refusing to accept, with the IOC, the initial offer recommended by the IOC three weeks ago.

In Lausanne, NBC bid a minimum \$325m with a profit-sharing maximum of \$450m. The deal which the Koreans have now agreed for signature by the IOC is a lower guarantee, \$300m, for the risk of a higher maximum, \$500m. Will they have lost \$25m or gained? Everything must depend on whether the American advertising market for sport continues to decline or improve.

In wrestling the contract away from ABC for the first time since 1968, NBC have established a new principle of risk-sharing. As Richard Pound, the Canadian negotiator for the IOC, said afterwards: "The high levels now being reached are beyond the guarantee of any individual company. This is the way negotiations will now have to go, and I think it's a good approach to it. This is the best deal possible in the circumstances."

FOOTBALL: A GLINT OF GOLD IN MENAI STRAITS

Atlético Madrid tie could solve Bangor's problems

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

A year ago Bangor City, crippled by heavy debts, were about as close to extinction as they are geographically to the Menai Straits. The part-timers of the Multipart League faced a winding-up order over unpaid income tax. But yesterday they received a message from UEFA's headquarters in Zurich that promises to ease their financial problems.

Bangor are told that they are to meet Atlético Madrid in the second round of the Cup Winners' Cup, and from the first leg to be staged in Wales on October 23, they could make a profit of up to £40,000. To do so, they will probably have to leave home. Their directors are to discuss the possible venues next week.

Bangor's ground at Farrar Road holds only 10,000 spectators. "We would have security problems here," Alun Williams, their secretary, said yesterday. "Because I would have thought that everyone in Wales and the north-west of England will want to see this one." The tie is expected to be moved to Wrexham.

It was at the Racecourse Ground that Porto went down 1-0, and eventually out in the first round last season. A month later Roma won through by a lone aggregate goal, but Wrexham's crowd was a mere 14,007, less than half the official capacity.

"Wrexham made about £20,000 from the game against Roma," Alun Evans, the secretary of the Welsh FA, said. "If Bangor are sensible, they could double that figure." It is as though the Straits are moonlighting, plying their trade as Bangor's players already have their own clear visions of the night that lies ahead.

Luna, a 29-year-old taxi driver who has been a full back at the club for 11 years, said: "It is like something out of Walt Disney. At a time like this I think of all the low points there have been, like going out of the Welsh Cup 6-1 at Llandudno. Now we have the game of a lifetime."

Cartwright, their other full back, lost his job at a video production factory - in Wrexham, of all places - after taking three days off to go to Fredrikstad, Bangor's Norwegian victims in the first round. It was a terrible blow to be sacked, but it has all been worthwhile," he said.

John Mahoney, their manager, played against Atlético for Stoke City in a pre-season tournament in Madrid 10 years ago and converted a penalty to boot. The prospect of meeting them again is "a dream come true" but he remains refreshingly honest about the outcome. "We don't expect progress, so we'll just enjoy it."

Atlético, the runners-up to Barcelona in Spain last season, knocked out Celtic in the first round, and Aberdeen, Scotland's representatives in the European Cup, have been given a more realistic opportunity to gain revenge for the United Kingdom. They have been paired with Servette Geneva, who dismissed Linfield but by only 4-3 on aggregate.

Juventus, the European Cup holders, have had the misfortune to be drawn against Verona, the current Italian champions (the second leg in Milan will again be held behind closed doors). Barcelona, one of the competition's other favourites, are paired with the other side of the Iberian peninsula, with Porto, the conquerors of Ajax.

St Mirren and Dundee United have also avoided dangerous opponents in the UEFA Cup. St Mirren, attempting to reach the third round for the first time, take on the Swedes from Hammarby, and United face the more difficult task in removing Vardar Skopje, the Yugoslavs who put out Dynamo Bucharest.

DRAWS FOR EUROPEAN CUPS

Second round: Anderlecht v Omónia; Barcelona v Porto; Bayern Munich v Austria Vienna; Hoved v Steaua Bucharest; Göteborg v Fenerbahce Istanbul; Verona v Juventus; Leningrad v Lant (Fin); Servette Geneva v Aberdeen.

Cup Winners' Cup
Second round: Dukla Prague v Aik Stockholm; Benfica v Sampdoria; Rapid Vienna v Feyenoord; Lynborg (Nor) v Red Star Belgrade; Inter Casola (Rom) v Dynamo Kiev; Bangor v Atlético Madrid; Halmstad v Dynamo Garmisch-Partenkirchen (Ger); Vardar (Maced) v Werder Bremen (Ger).

UEFA Cup
SECOND ROUND: PSV Eindhoven v Dnepropetrovsk (USSR); Wagoner (Bel) v Dinamo Zagreb (Yug); AC Milan v Lokomotiv Leipzig; Partizan Belgrade v Nantes; Lint v Inter Milan; Cologne v Borussia Dortmund; Servette Geneva v FC Brugge; Real Madrid v Odessa; Videoton (Hung) v Legia Warsaw; Halmstad v Dynamo Garmisch-Partenkirchen; Lokomotiv Sofia v Nauchika (Kazakh); Halmstad v Nauchika (Kazakh); AC Turin v Spil (Yug); Dinamo Tbilisi (USSR) v Sporting Lisbon.

Game in need of this Heavy price to pay for success

The prospect of Manchester United's record-equalling performance at Kenilworth Road today is as much interest, but not quite the same degree of certainty, as an eclipse of the sun. Because of this, it has become not so much a question of can they do it, or indeed, whether they deserve to do it, but will they please do it, for the sake of an English football year which has seen too many failures and tragedies.

That eleven successive victory since the start of the season, equalling the achievement of the

a record to protect, too, you know," he adds, having a good eye for public as well as a young player for potential. "We've never been beaten on a synthetic surface in five games here, three at QRP and one in Iceland."

The absence of the suspended Harford "arguably the best centre forward in the country" (Prest says) whose two goals beat United at Kenilworth Road last season, is an even bigger reason why United should be rubbing shoulders with the likes of Blanchflower and Mackay at 4.40 p.m.

Scotland's two UEFA Cup survivors, Dundee United and St Mirren, may have to pay a heavy price for progress in Europe. They return to the more mundane business of the Premier Division today with serious injury problems after Wednesday night's exertions.

St Mirren make the short trip to Parkhead where the barricades have been removed and supporters are free to watch Celtic after the midweek loss. Celtic, the league leaders, are unchanged despite the defeat by Atlético Madrid, but St Mirren were counting their wounded yesterday.

Alex Miller, their manager, whose side are in fourth place three points behind Celtic, said: "We have had to ask Celtic to postpone our reserve match until next Tuesday because of our injuries, and every player with first team experience will be reporting for duty."

Tony Fitzpatrick is certainly out with a foot injury, while Frank McGarvey, Peter Godfrey, Brian Gallagher and Steve Clarke are getting treatment. We will be lucky to get two of the four ready in time."

Ulster on 13 without A watching brief for Fijians

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

When England's new divisional championship begins on Saturday, December 21, it would be intriguing to ponder their likelihood of success against Ulster, arguably the most powerful provincial side in Britain. Today at Morley Ulster hope to record their thirteenth successive win by beating Yorkshire, who have posed them problems in the past.

They will be without two Ireland players, Carr, the flanker, whose knee has once more given way, and Ringland, the wing, who has a broken wrist. But such was their form against Scotland last month, when Brady scored four tries from scrum half, they should not miss the absences against a county team missing Andrew and Melville, neither of whom are available to them this season.

A lingering doubt over Anderson, the lock, has been resolved and in McMaster Ulster have a replacement wing for Ringland who may well take the place of the national side against Fiji on October 19.

Yorkshire's needs take Buckton, the England squad flanker, away from Orrell's match with Leeds.

Orrell will be without Clough, the centre, until Christmas because he has been injured. Clough, who has been picked 13 games into the first month.

Richmond's visit to London Welsh will be overshadowed by the death of Nigel Castleton, their 22-year-old scrum half, who joined them this season from Loughborough University. Castleton, an Army lieutenant, died late on Thursday after a road accident near Oxford.

Most players would rather have fewer warm-up games, with the league starting in September and being played to a conclusion, to be followed by the district championship and in turn by the international championship.

At present the Scottish season finishes with weeks of sevens which seems to me to be a waste of a month of the best rugby weather, and sevens contribute nothing to the international scene.

The Welsh Rugby Union have been conscious of the shortcomings at the top end of the league and they have tried hard to change the set-up to an eight team league with games being played on a home and away basis. They have been frustrated, however, by the fact that the drop from the top flight would lose them prime fixtures and the income associated with these games.

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